

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the fortieth anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation, a private, non-profit corporation established by Congress to ensure equal access to justice under law for all Americans.

Since 1974, LSC has been on the frontlines of providing civil legal aid for low-income Americans. By funding legal aid in hundreds of offices across the country, LSC has made a critical difference in the lives of countless Americans.

Whether helping homeowners prevent foreclosures, fighting for veterans and workers' rights to receive the benefits they have duly earned, or helping mothers obtain child support or protection from abuse, LSC has provided funding for legal aid attorneys to protect the safety, security, and health of our most vulnerable citizens through qualified counsel.

Alarming, more than fifty percent of eligible clients seeking assistance are turned away due to a lack of program resources.

Equal justice for all is not just an aspiration; it is a guarantee to every American regardless of race, gender, socio-economic status, and creed. We can do better, and we must do better.

On this anniversary, I salute the Legal Services Corporation, and I call on my colleagues to protect its program resources.

HONORING LT. COL. MATT URBAN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Lt. Col. Matt Urban and to recognize his service to our great nation. As a veteran of World War II, I understand the great sacrifices made by the "greatest generation" and their families. Lt. Col. Urban is a true American hero and is worthy of recognition by this body.

Lt. Col. Urban is one of the most decorated soldiers of our time. He has received the Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Legion of Merit and the Purple Heart, among others. After enlisting in the Army on July 2, 1941, Lt. Col. Urban fought in six campaigns in World War II in the Mediterranean and European theaters. On September 3, 1944, after exposing himself to enemy fire while destroying two tanks with a bazooka, he was critically wounded and medically evacuated from battle. The following year, a fellow soldier recommended him for the Medal of Honor for his heroic ac-

tions in battle. Unfortunately, this letter was not received by the Army, which resulted in a great delay in recognizing his valor. However, thanks to hard work by his family, friends and supporters, Lt. Col. Urban was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Jimmy Carter on July 19, 1980. He passed away on March 4, 1995.

The citation for his Medal of Honor states that Lt. Col. Urban deserves to be honored "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty." On August 23, 2014, his family will gather at Arlington National Cemetery for a wreath laying ceremony and celebration of his life. I join them in honoring Lt. Col. Matt Urban for his heroism in battle and many sacrifices he made on behalf of our great nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this great American.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
EDWARD "ED" MOSLEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Edward "Ed" Mosley. His service to our community, and the contributions he made to our state and nation will always be remembered.

In 1924, Ed was born in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up during a time when skin color affected a person's opportunities, but Ed pushed past the barriers. Ever since he was a young child, obtaining a higher education was a primary focus for Ed. In 1944, he graduated from the University of Illinois and continued onto medical school at Meharry Medical College. He completed his medical internship at Harlem Hospital in New York and his residency at Tuskegee Veterans Hospital in Alabama. In addition, Ed also taught English at the Tuskegee Institute.

Ed also served in the United States military as a Captain in the Army. He exhibited great leadership, determination, and love for his country. An extended tour in Korea truly highlighted his bravery and commitment to the values that he and this country represent.

Ed established his medical office in Fresno, California. He served residents from throughout the San Joaquin Valley for 50 years. Ensuring that individuals had access to adequate healthcare was one of Ed's greatest priorities which led him to create the West Fresno Health Care Coalition, now known as the West Fresno Family Resource Center. Ed served as president of the board for 15 years. Due to Ed's dedication and commitment to the West Fresno Family Resource Center, the organization has provided thousands of individuals and families with resources to better their lives. Ed is also responsible for the collaboration between doctors to create the Westview Convalescent Hospital in Fresno.

In addition to his contributions made in the healthcare industry, Ed was also very active throughout the community. For 13 years, he served on the State Center Community College Board. Governor George Deukmejian appointed Ed as a delegate to the Electoral College in 1972, making him the first African-American to be appointed. He also became a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission for the Master Plan for Higher Education. Finally, he served on the Fresno Mayor's commission on Bi-Racial relations.

Ed will be greatly missed by his wife of 48 years, Marian; his children, Cary, Kia, Rennie, Christopher, and Caroline; his grandchildren, Michael, Drew, Mariah, Kyle, Dominique, Rory, Maddie, Donovan, and Liam; and his two great-grandchildren, Ben and Jack.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of Dr. Ed Mosley, a community leader and humanitarian. His presence will undoubtedly be missed, but his impact and legacy in the San Joaquin Valley will never be forgotten.

HONORING TOM HOM

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Tom Hom, a man who has made it his life's work to better the city of San Diego. As the American-born son of Chinese immigrants, Tom saw firsthand the discrimination that Asian Americans experienced in the U.S. in the early 20th century as his parents worked tirelessly to build a better life for their twelve children. Despite immense obstacles, Tom rose to success, all the while giving back to his family and his community.

In 1963, Tom Hom was elected to the San Diego City Council, becoming the city's first minority councilmember, and he went on to serve in the California State Assembly. As a councilman, and later as a businessman, Tom helped reinvigorate downtown San Diego, transforming our skid row into the vibrant Gaslamp Quarter that now draws businesses and visitors from around the country. He was instrumental in founding the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, which documents the culture and contributions of our city's Chinese-American community, and he remains an influential figure in the San Diego business and philanthropic communities.

Tom's vision and hard work have shaped San Diego into the city it is today, and his generosity and humility in the face of such success are inspiring. Tom Hom's journey from Chinatown to the California statehouse truly embodies the American Dream.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING TOMMY “MR. NOTTIE”
GUNNS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of noble character from Shaw, MS in Bolivar County.

I believe that when you give honor and recognition to someone they should truly deserve it. I am always happy when I meet someone or hear their story about overcoming, rising from obscurity, coming from meager beginnings but leaving a legacy although unaware; which doesn't get the recognition and thanks it really deserves. This is why I want to honor Mr. Tommy Gunns, Jr. a man of “noble” character.

Childhood: Nottie was originally from Egypt, MS in Chickasaw County, MS. He was born in the year 1900 to Mr. Tommy Gunns, Sr. and Mrs. Alberta Gunns. Nottie was raised in a home with his mother, his only sister named Alma, and his stepfather, “Mr. Brick”. His parents were sharecroppers and struggled; which was the backdrop for an unstable home environment that easily led to abuse. And Nottie was often times the one subjected to the abuse (verbal and physical) by his stepfather. Since his mother could not protect him and because of years of abuse, he developed the drive early in life to want “better,” so he planned to run away, someday. In his plan, he always included Alma, his young sister.

The day came when he ran away and took Alma with him, never returning home. Nottie ran away and arrived in Shaw, MS in 1914. He was just a young teenager when he ran away. When Nottie arrived in Shaw, he worked as many odd jobs as he could find and raised his sister alone; vowing to never let anyone else abuse him or his little sister. In fact, he was so protective of her that he never eased up until he had approved of the man she married. He had to be assured the man was not abusive and was a good provider for Alma.

A Young Man and Family Man: As a young man working in Shaw he was able to acquire many skills and a reputation as a fast learner, hard worker, and a person of good moral character, which equated to a nonsense type of reputation. He was still determined to have a better life and wanted to be respected and treated like a man so he carried himself like a man. Nottie eventually earned that reputation and people began calling him Mr. Nottie or Mr. Gunns. Some of the jobs he worked included driving trucks to haul logs, a loader at the Shaw lumber yard, and sharecropping as a small farmer. While working at the Shaw lumber yard, he learned the skill of carpentry; and became known as a master carpenter around Shaw. Everyone wanted him to do their work.

Mr. Gunns eventually met and married, Nancy Hunt of Shaw, MS. The couple had ten children, 2 died shortly after child birth. Mr. Gunns wanted a big loving family that was full of happy times but serious about life. He directed his journey and based goals in life on his childhood, all that he never had, he was determined to experience before dying. His and Nancy's children are Berna “BB” Gunns-Williams, Nathaniel “Baby Sister” Gunns-Clark, Tommy “Win” Gunns, Jr. (although he

is the 3rd), Christine Gunns-Gardner, Torries Gunns, Maurine “Morgan” Gunns-Gray, Shirley Ann “Shelly” Gunns-Juette, and Lonnie Lee Gunns.

As a husband, father, and community member, Mr. Gunns saw the need to become more involved. You see he wanted to be a role model for his children; he wanted to make sure they had a good upbringing and education, so he felt he needed to get involved in the community and help make it happen. Mr. Gunns served as a volunteer fireman for the city. He wasn't trying to be a hero or win a popularity campaign; he just wanted a better life for his children. Mr. Gunns number one priority was education for all colored children.

Since he was very vocal about education he was asked to become a member of the Board of Trustees for the Shaw Colored School.

The Shaw Colored School only educated children to the 8th grade. Beyond 8th grade the colored children had to travel to Greenville or surrounding towns for a high school education. Mr. Gunns helped changed that. He convinced the Board of Trustees to agree to vote on establishing a curriculum for 9th through 12th grades for Shaw students to be able to get their high school education. So, under his tutelage the first high school graduating class from the Shaw Colored High School was in 1949.

How did he do it? Mr. Gunns had an unyielding faith. That was the same faith that brought him as a young teenage runaway with his little sister, Alma, safely to Shaw, MS during the early 1900s. His faith in God provided him with jobs to take care of himself and his sister as a young boy, alone in the Mississippi Delta. His ability to pick up on things and learn fast paid off because he became that master carpenter. His daughter, Maurine said he could build a house from the ground up. He was a devoted member and deacon of the Strangers Home M.B. Church in Shaw, where he was laid to rest for eternity. And those trying times were no match for his common sense, the old folks called it “mother wit” for survival. It was the foundation of his approach on how to survive in life:

Financial Policy—never spend all your money. Save some for a rainy day.

Child Rearing—everybody has a role and place. Only adults are in charge and children are to stay in their place and do as they are told. He called it his no nonsense approach to raising children. He would often paraphrase Proverbs 13:24, by saying “Spare the rod and spoil the child.”

Preparation—your future depends on your education. “All my children are going to college. I had enough children to work and chip in to help pay for everyone's college,” he would say.

The End: The first of Mr. Gunns children to go to college was Berna at the age of 16. This was made possible by two reasons: (1) everyone in the family picked and chopped cotton, and (2) his financial policy of saving money. The children all knew their earnings went to their parents to help provide for the family and save for college. Berna went to Tuskegee Institute in 1950 in Tuskegee, AL. Berna graduated before he died. He was able to see the first of his children to get a college education. His daughter, Berna remembers her father and mother faces as they watched her graduate with all her sisters and brothers watching as well. They knew they had to do it too.

Berna went on to become a self-employed, self-made millionaire. She started her own company “Scrubbles Janitorial Service” in her home and grew it to become a multi-million dollar company in Washington, DC. She was able to live that better life because of her fathers' determination to clear the path.

Mr. Gunns didn't live to see another one of his children to go to college, he died in 1954 but he had already planted the seeds for success. Everyone in the family knew their place and role. Mrs. Gunns, his wife and eldest daughter, Berna carried on his mantra for every child of his going to college. Mrs. Gunns continued to work as the cafeteria manager and cook for the Shaw Colored School.

Tommy, his eldest son, became the father figure for his siblings. Since his father had taught him the carpentry trade, Tommy was able to get his father's job at the Shaw Lumber Yard. It was a year later in 1958 that he got the job because graduating from high school was priority in 1957. The family never missed a check; he knew the money was going to help pay for his siblings to finish high school and attend college. Tommy eventually went to college in 1959 by getting a job with Mississippi Vocational College (now called Mississippi Valley State University—MVSU) driving the school bus picking up students in Bolivar and Sunflower County. That was one of the ways he was able to pay his way through college, as well as it served as his transportation to and from the College. The other way was when Dean Isaac offered him a work study job to help build other buildings on campus (i.e., the auditorium, and campus maintenance) because he had seen his work as a student. As a requirement for graduation, Tommy had to build something to show he had mastered his trade. But the requirement was reconsidered when he drove his instructor to Shaw and showed him the house he built along with the blueprint he had drawn. When asked how, Tommy told him “My Dad is a master carpenter and he taught me this stuff a long time ago.” That house was for his best friend, Roy Magee and the family still lives there. In fact, Tommy still has the blueprints he drew. Tommy was a part of the team that built the first house on campus for the first president of Mississippi Valley State University, Dr. James H. White. The house now serves as the National Alumni House on the campus of the University. Tommy did not graduate until 1964 because of split session with his degree in Industrial Arts. He became the Industrial Art instructor for the Shaw School District, working for 30 years until his retirement.

All of Mr. Gunns children went to college and became very successful in their own rights with good jobs, homes, cars, money to send their children to college, and blessed to see retirement, etc. But Berna and Tommy stood out as the oldest daughter and son after their father's death. As for Mr. Gunns master carpentry skills, his son, Tommy and grandson, Undra Gunns (son of Torries and Dorothy Washington-Gunns) acquired that skill. So, he lives on in many ways and in many accomplishments without even trying to do so, he left a legacy.

One more mention on how did he do it? Mr. Gunns received only a 2nd grade education. He never learned to read or write. But, his stepfather, “Mr. Brick” taught him how to count. And passed that on to his children by

teaching them how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. That's all he could do in terms of academics. It was his faith in God, his common sense, determination, and ability to count money and perform mathematical operations in his head, and serve on the school board, which sparked change in education in Shaw. All those things got him through life and he was destined to accomplish the things he did. "If you don't walk in purpose, you won't walk in destiny." Find your purpose in life and walk it out (Quote by: Farrah Gray). Now, that's how he did it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the legacy of Tommy "Mr. Nottie" Gunns, Jr. from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on rollcall votes cast between July 9, 2014 and July 17, 2014.

On rollcall vote No. 371, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. MCALLISTER I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 372, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Ms. HAHN I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 373, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. GOSAR I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 374, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. WENSTRUP I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 375, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. SWALWELL I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 376, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. BYRNE I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 377, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. MCCLINTOCK I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 378, on consideration of H.R. 803 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 379, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. MCCLINTOCK I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 380, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Ms. BONAMICI I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 381, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Ms. SPEIER I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 382, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Ms. TITUS I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 383, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. SCHIFF I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 384, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. QUIGLEY I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 385, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. CHABOT I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 386, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Ms. TITUS I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 387, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Ms. DELAURO I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 388, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. KING I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 389, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. LANKFORD I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 390, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. CASSIDY I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 391, on ordering the previous question for H. Res. 661 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 392, on consideration of H. Res. 661 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 393, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. BURGESS I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 394, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. LAMALFA I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 395, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. STOCKMAN I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 396, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. STOCKMAN I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 397, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. MCKINLEY I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 398, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Ms. BLACKBURN I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 399, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. GOSAR I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 400, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 4923 by Mr. HUDSON I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

On rollcall vote No. 401, on the motion to recommit for H.R. 4923 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 402, on final passage of H.R. 4923 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 403, on the motion to recommit to H.R. 4718 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 404, on final passage of H.R. 4718 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 405, on consideration of H.R. 4195 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 406, on consideration of H.R. 5029 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 407, on ordering the previous question to H. Res. 669 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 408, on passage of H. Res. 669 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 409, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 5016 by Ms. JACKSON LEE I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 410, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 5016 by Ms. MOORE I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 412, on consideration of an amendment offered to H.R. 5016 by Ms. WATERS I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 413, on consideration of the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 5021 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 414, on passage of H.R. 5021 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 428, on ordering the previous question to H. Res. 670 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 429, on passage of H. Res. 670 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 430, on the motion to instruct for H.R. 3230 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 431, on the motion to recommit for H.R. 4719 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 432, on passage of H.R. 4719 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "nay."

I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify my vote on final passage of H.R. 4923 and H.R. 5021.

On H.R. 4923 I would have voted for the bill despite concerns about the increase in funding for fossil fuel research at the expense of decreases in funding for renewable energy technologies. Furthermore, I was concerned by a policy rider that would prevent the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers from moving forward with rulemaking to clarify the definition of Waters of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act.

On H.R. 5021 I voted yes because it is critically important that we keep our Highway Trust Fund solvent and transportation projects moving forward. However, I am frustrated that we have not yet been able to achieve a longer-term fix for the Highway Trust Fund. In crafting a new highway reauthorization I urge my colleagues to work on a bipartisan basis to ensure a reliable, dedicated funding source for our highway projects.

THE GROWING CRISIS OF AFRICA'S ORPHANS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that I convened recently in my subcommittee addressed a very important humanitarian crisis: the more than fifty million children orphaned on the continent of Africa.

Indeed, to put this in perspective, as one of our witnesses, Shimwaayi Muntemba, pointed out, with such a number, the orphans of Africa, if grouped together in a single country, would be the fourth largest country in all of Africa—after Nigeria, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The factors contributing to this crisis are varied, starting with war and civil unrest, which have displaced millions—wars that have led to the deaths of parents and other adult relatives, leaving children to fend for themselves. Or sometimes children are separated from their parents in a mad flight for sanctuary, never learning if their mothers and fathers are alive or dead. They may never know if they are orphaned in reality, or if both parents turn out to have survived and are alive in a refugee camp somewhere else. Such parents, too, agonize over what ever happened to their children.

Other children are indirect victims of HIV/AIDS, which has wreaked such devastating havoc on the continent, or other diseases. They could have lost one or both parents to this or some other dread disease. Often being forced into the role of the primary caretaker of younger siblings, their childhood innocence is ended by the burdens of adult responsibility.

As with many of the humanitarian crises that confront the continent, there is a big picture aspect to this one, one which we as Congress certainly need to address. There are important strategic implications of so many children and adolescents left without fathers or mothers. We have all heard of the scourge of child soldiers, how orphaned children are recruited and brutalized, themselves turning into remorseless killers. Terrorist groups such as the Lord's Resistance Army, under the rapacious warlord Joseph Kony, actively recruit child soldiers.

And if humanitarian reasons are not enough to compel Congress to rally behind the efforts to address the issue of Africa's orphans by USAID and countless charitable organizations, many of them faith-based, then strategic concerns and the effect this has on stability throughout the region, should be reason to sit up and take notice of this tragedy.

But behind every statistic about orphaned children, behind the pie charts and graphs, there is also a portrait in miniature: a lonely child who is left without a mother or a father, perhaps dealing each night with the pangs of hunger, or just seeking a place where one can lay one's head down in safety until the morning comes. That child awakes to forage and fend for another day. Behind every statistic, there is a young boy or girl who has to deal with the sense of abandonment, or with the trauma of having seen parents killed before his or her eyes. There is a little soul, a young person, whose inherent dignity has been scarred in a world itself wounded, where there is so much pain, suffering and darkness.

These children are in need of love and compassion, of simple needs being met. Those

who do find loving homes and families are truly the lucky ones.

One remedy for this crisis is inter-country adoption, which sometimes brings children from Africa to our shores to provide them with loving homes. This is, of course, only a partial remedy, because for every child who is given a loving home, there are many more for whom there is never will be such a refuge. At best, they may end up in an institutional orphanage, which is a topic fraught with controversy. While the best ones, again often faith based, help address the developmental and educational needs of children, the worst may abet trafficking. In some cases, such institutions do not even shelter orphans *per se*, but rather children who are placed there by parents who think that their children will get better education and nutrition than what they themselves can provide. Clearly, such institutions can never provide the type of love that a father and a mother, along with any siblings, can give.

An issue that was addressed in the hearing was the role of inter-country adoption in helping address, at least in part, the crisis of orphans. Some of the testimony was critical of the role of our State Department's Office of Children's Issues in the Bureau of Consular Affairs. Such testimony needs to be heard, for we can, and we must, do better.

We also heard about an adoption issue that has received a lot of attention on Capitol Hill and was the topic of a resolution authored by my good friend and colleague COLLIN PETERSON of Minnesota, which I am happy to say was passed by the House, after being marked up by my subcommittee and then the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Last year, the Democratic Republic of the Congo suspended the issuance of exit permits for Congolese children adopted by foreign parents—impacting hundreds of U.S. families. The suspension means that Congolese children adopted by American parents cannot leave the country to go to their new homes—even though the parents have been officially declared the legal guardians under Congolese law.

What's more, despite the exit permit suspension, Congolese courts have continued processing new adoptions, leading to a backlog of adopted children who are unable to leave the country.

More than 900 American families are caught up in varying stages of this adoption limbo—breaking hearts.

This is a deplorable situation for these children, and for their distraught families. Indeed, we will hear about this from one such family that has been impacted, as well as an advocate for families that have been impacted.

Finally, I also want to say a word to those parents who have endured not only burdens that are financial, but ones that are primarily emotional, separated from the children that they have voluntarily welcomed into their lives. Your hardship and pain is deeply noted by my colleagues and I, as well as our staff members, many of whom have worked not only on passing Congressman PETERSON's resolution, but also have pushed our State Department and the Government of the DRC to resolve this issue.

Please continue to persevere, and do not give up hope! We remain in your corner.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Cummings Foundation, the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, Child Justice, and the Courageous Kids Network should be commended for their work combatting child abuse and ensuring justice for abuse victims.

Earlier this year they recognized Members of Congress who work on child abuse issues, but I think these groups are the ones who should really be recognized.

Child abuse is a horrific crime.

And it's made even worse when justice is not served.

Only a monster would harm a child.

It is an inexcusable injustice when a child is ordered by our own legal system back into an unsafe situation.

As a former judge and prosecutor and as co-chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus with my good friend JIM COSTA of California, I know how important groups like these are in advocating for victims and helping them through court proceedings.

Not only do these organizations serve children and their protective parents, who many times are also victims of abuse, but work to fix the family court system, when justice is not served.

They counsel protective parents and help children who have been wrongly placed with an abusive parent.

These groups work with the parent and courts to bring the child back into a safe situation, some providing pro bono legal assistance.

They work to educate the public on these issues and fight for a justice system that works, striving to bring real change to our society by ending domestic violence and child abuse.

Those that work with children and their families through some of the hardest situations are true heroes.

Our country was founded on the principles of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

The Cummings Foundation, the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, Child Justice, and the Courageous Kids Network want to make sure that victims are able to live that American ideal.

Our country cannot tolerate abuse.

Justice demands that we fight back.

Because justice is what we do.

A society will be judged by how it treats the most vulnerable.

I hope that because of the work these groups are doing, our society will be judged well.

And that's just the way it is.

THE FTO REFORM ACT OF 2014

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, the United States Foreign Terrorist Organization

List is widely recognized as a powerful tool in the fight against terrorist networks around the world. Designating a terrorist group as an "FTO" makes it clear that organizations that engage in terrorist activity should not be welcome in any civilized society, while the wide-ranging effects of designation can hamper a network's financing and operations. Often, when the United States adds an organization to the FTO List, they are leading the global community in taking on extremist groups willing to murder innocent civilians, and therefore, the value of a credible, potent, and reliable designation process is immense.

The Secretary of State's role in managing the FTO List in accordance with Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act is complemented by consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury. Each of these cabinet level officials plays a role in enforcing an FTO designation, and their assistance in considering potential additions to the list is absolutely vital. However, since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)—which also has responsibility for many of the enforcement tools of FTO Designations—the role of the Secretary of Homeland Security in the FTO process has not been codified in statute.

As an example, DHS is the only Cabinet-level Department whose first three missions are the prevention of terrorism and enhancement of security; securing and managing borders; and enforcing and administering immigration laws. Each of these is a major component of the FTO List, which is designed to mitigate the terrorist threat and prevent members of designated organizations from entering the United States. Further, DHS already plays a significant role in assisting the Department of State in making FTO designations by providing information gathered by component agencies and DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis. The Immigration and Nationality Act should codify the reality of the responsibility DHS has to assist in these designations.

Additionally, DHS personnel have a large presence in foreign countries, and DHS employees interact with individuals attempting to enter the United States thousands of times each day. DHS personnel contribute to screening FTO members who attempt to enter the United States.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), an office within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), is the second-largest federal investigative agency in the country. The National Security Investigation Division of HSI "enhances national security through criminal investigations; prevents acts of terrorism by targeting people, money and materials that support terrorist and criminal activities; and identifies and eliminates vulnerabilities in the nation's border, economic, transportation and infrastructure security." This mission is intimately linked to the FTO list.

Many recent FTO designations have been issued for groups that have already attacked U.S. interests, U.S. citizens, or the U.S. Homeland. At the same time, many of these organizations engaged in terrorist activity and have been viewed as terrorist networks long before their inclusion in the FTO list. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Boko Haram, the Haqqani Network, and al Shabaab are some such examples. Yet the FTO list was intended to proactively respond to the threat of terrorism, and should be

utilized as a weapon in the fight against all terrorist entities, not merely a declaration of the obvious and measure of last resort.

With this in mind, it is important to balance the diplomatic concerns of the State Department with the law enforcement concerns of the Departments of Justice and Treasury, and the security concerns of the Department of Homeland Security. Terrorist groups, and their members, should be identified as terrorists and barred from the United States according to the threat they pose. Adding the Secretary of Homeland Security to the formal designation processes in statute will help achieve that goal.

The FTO Reform Act of 2014 will strengthen the FTO process and ensure all relevant considerations are taken into account when considering potential FTO designations. Lastly, the bill enhances Congressional oversight and creates greater visibility into the impacts of these designations and how they are used.

RECOGNIZING PHILLIP V. SANCHEZ

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phillip V. Sanchez as he celebrates his 85th birthday. His many years of dedication to civil service deserve both acknowledgement and appreciation. Sanchez was a pioneer for the Mexican American community; he was the first Latino to serve in a Presidential administration as the Director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, an impressive feat.

Sanchez was born on July 28, 1929. He is the son of Mexican migrant workers, who settled in the small town of Pinedale in California's San Joaquin River Valley. A student at the nearby Clovis High School, he founded and edited the school newspaper. Graduating salutatorian in 1946, his accomplishments garnered the superlative "Most Likely to Succeed," an obvious indicator of his future successes. Sanchez went on to earn both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in political science at Fresno State, where he chartered the school's chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and wrote for the school's paper, *The Daily Collegian*. After graduating from Fresno State, he took the position of Fresno County Chief Administrative Officer, his first government position.

It was in 1971 that Sanchez was appointed as director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity under the Nixon administration, making him the first Latino to serve in a Presidential administration and thereby cementing himself in history. He served admirably in this position until 1973, when President Nixon appointed him as the U.S. Ambassador to Honduras. Sanchez also served as Ambassador to Colombia under President Ford's administration.

Phillip V. Sanchez serves as a prime example of an exemplary citizen. Although not currently active in politics, he continues to contribute to his community, recently reading to children at the Mexican Consulate in honor of Children's Day. His accomplishments have inspired numerous individuals, and his name

now graces the halls of the Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez Public Charter School.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Phillip V. Sanchez on his 85th birthday. He serves as shining example of outstanding public service, and I thank him for both his dedication to the Mexican American community and to this nation.

RECOGNIZING ORGANIZATIONS LIKE YMCAS THAT PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH SAFE SWIM- MING SKILLS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the three children who die every day as a result of drowning—and to recognize organizations, like YMCAs across the country, that are working to give children and youth the skills to prevent these tragic accidents from happening.

Drowning is the leading cause of death nationally for children aged 1–4, and is the second leading cause of death for children aged 5–9. For children between 5 and 9, the drowning rate for African American and American Indian children is roughly 3 times that of white children, and African American children aged 11 and 12 are 10 times more likely to drown in pools than their white counterparts. Regardless of race, lower income populations disproportionately bear the burden of drowning in their communities.

During 2013, 7 children drowned in the Dallas metropolitan area. In Texas, 82 children were victims of drowning. During 2012, 66% of child drowning victims in Texas were male.

Both in Texas and across the country, there is an opportunity and a need to save these children's lives—to reach out to communities that historically have not had access to swimming and drowning prevention programs. Many low-income children live in housing complexes with unguarded swimming pools, and in hot summer months, these pools may be the only way to cool down, as many of the housing units lack air conditioning.

The YMCA is one example of an organization that is changing statistics for children across the country. The YMCA is bringing swimming safety and drowning prevention programs to these community sites. YMCAs also partner with schools to bring kids to the Y for lessons and offer swimming lessons year-round. I am thrilled that the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas is one of the 15 YMCAs across the country piloting a program to reduce youth incidences of drowning. The YMCA makes an effort to go into underserved communities to teach drowning prevention and water safety to children who otherwise would not have access to these life-saving skills. Moreover, the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas is one of 103 Ys providing additional scholarships to children in their community that may not otherwise have access to swim lessons as part of a nationwide data collection project on effectiveness of skill instruction in all communities.

I would like to congratulate the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas on its innovative efforts to save the lives of all our children, and to join

them in educating parents and providing children the skills they need to swim safely and avoid harm.

SECRET PROGRAM TO SUPPLY
ARMS TO REBELS IN SYRIA

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed with the recent reporting of a new, covert, secret U.S. program—not secret to the intelligence communities throughout the world, but secret to the American people—to supply military weapons and equipment to arm the rebels in Syria.

Mr. Speaker, we've spent the last thirteen years sending arms into the Middle East, and now the region is blowing up.

I commend President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry for their commitment to finding diplomatic solutions in preventing these wars and challenges—especially for their recent efforts to achieve an immediate ceasefire and settlement between Israelis and Palestinians.

However, I am deeply disturbed by these repeated undercover missions to fan the flames of foreign wars by inserting more military weapons and equipment into the conflicts. These efforts run contrary to our work of diplomacy and toward lasting peace—and what's more, are time and time again executed without seeking the Constitutionally-granted authority of the Congress of the United States.

I firmly believe that if the question were brought before the Congress, many of these programs would never be sanctioned.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, these are arms that all too often end up in the hands of our worst enemies. And this apparent determination on the part of the Administration to send weapons into so many regional conflicts only serves to escalate the violence, prolong the fighting, and stir feelings of ill will toward America.

Mr. Speaker, I've said this before—we have no friends in these fights.

We must get over the tired and fallacious notion that the enemies of our enemies are our friends.

I urge the Administration to remember that it is the Congress—not the President—that has authority over matters of war and peace.

I strongly urge my colleagues to remember our constitutional obligation to consider the future untold costs of these so-called wars of choice and nation-building abroad.

Those monies and resources are urgently needed here at home—in reducing the deficit, rebuilding America—creating good-paying jobs restoring our roads and bridges—and reinvesting in our people and our future by renewing our support for education, basic research in science, medicine, technology, and clean energy.

MEMBER ONLINE ALL-STAR
COMPETITION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to have my office participate in the Democratic Whip Office's fifth annual "Member Online All-Star Competition." I applaud my colleagues for a friendly and spirited three week competition, and I congratulate the All-stars who led House Democrats in collectively acquiring over 213,000 new followers on social media.

I am always delighted to find new ways to engage my constituents and all Americans. To that end, my staff did an outstanding job making many new connections. I especially commend Ladan Ahmadi in my office for her tremendous effort to take us to the final round with our Vine video.

I thank the Democratic Whip for building on and fostering comity in the People's House. I know that we are all better off for it, and our work on the behalf of the American people is enhanced by it.

THE TROUBLING CASE OF MERIAM
IBRAHIM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, for weeks this spring, the world watched as Meriam Ibrahim Ishag, a pregnant Christian woman in Sudan, faced flogging and the death penalty because her government would not accept that she had lived her life as a Christian and married a Christian man. Meriam has demonstrated both courage and grace under pressure—giving birth in jail in May while chained and caring for her two children, including her newborn, not only under restraints, but also without the normal amenities that any pregnant woman and nursing mother should expect.

The harsh application of Sharia law on non-Muslims was the trigger for a two-decade civil war in Sudan and the eventual secession of the South. Sudan is one of 20 countries in the world who have laws against apostasy—defined as the abandonment by an individual of their original religion. In Sudan, apostasy is effectively considered leaving the Muslim faith, particularly the interpretation of Islam followed by authorities. In Sudan, to leave the Muslim faith is an automatic death sentence. If you are considered an apostate, you cannot legally marry someone of another faith, and for this, Meriam also was charged with adultery and sentenced to flogging.

However, this story is not just about harshly applied religious and legal principles in violation of national and international law. Daniel Wani, Meriam's husband, is a Christian who is a dual American and South Sudanese citizen. He has lived in the United States for more than a decade. He married Meriam in late 2011, and they had a son a year later. Somehow, the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum could not find a way to help this American to get his family out of Sudan before a crisis developed,

even after she was arrested and released last year in charges involving apostasy.

A hearing that I recently convened was intended to examine the facts as we know them to determine how strictly applied rules almost led to the officially sanctioned beating and execution of a young woman who has lived as a Christian all her life, but who has now been told that she has no right to choose her religious belief.

This hearing was originally supposed to take place in June, but at the urging of both the U.S. Government and Sudanese officials, we postponed it to allow for quiet diplomacy to take place. However, prior to the hearing, Meriam's legal entanglements seem to be increasing rather than diminishing.

A Sudanese court initially ruled that the mere fact that her father was Muslim means that she should have been raised as a Muslim. She was given three days to convert to Islam, but she told authorities she would not abandon her Christian faith. Her refusal to leave the faith she had practiced her entire life led to her being in mortal fear for her life.

Fortunately, a Sudanese appeals court believed that she considered herself Christian and overturned her conviction on apostasy and adultery charges. However, members of her family have appealed the overturning of her conviction. Meanwhile, the Government of Sudan rearrested Meriam for using South Sudanese documents in an attempt to leave the country, and while she was released on bail. Fortunately, she was able to leave Sudan last week.

We cannot be absolutely certain of the exact chain of events that led to the situation that Meriam was in prior to her release. The Department of State understandably declined to testify last week because of the sensitive nature of the then ongoing efforts to end the matter satisfactorily. Daniel and Meriam were still in Sudan at that point. Daniel was free to leave with his children, but he chose, of course, to stay with his wife, until she too could leave with her family.

Since Meriam's conviction in May, a bipartisan, bicameral Congressional coalition worked to undo the harsh penalties for her under the apostasy and adultery laws and secure her family's repatriation to the United States. Contact was made with Daniel, as well as the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum and the Sudan embassy in Washington. Eventually, the headquarters offices of both the State Department and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services got involved.

Yet one wonders why this matter had to come to a crisis stage before a means could be found to avoid what now seems to have been an inevitable outcome in this case. Daniel told congressional staff that he sought help from the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum but was told that he should seek an attorney since the situation was mostly focused on his wife, who was not an American. This was the advice he received even when he was arrested and had his passport seized. An American citizen should expect more from his government's representatives in a foreign country when that country's government has taken action against them.

Under the principles of natural law, which are the basis of our governing documents and those of countries around the world, there are certain inalienable rights endowed by Our Creator. The decision on how to worship Our Creator is one of them.

Elements in Sudan's Islamic clergy and in the government interpret the Koran to give them license to tell people how they will live out their faith whether they consider themselves Muslim or not. In Meriam's case, her father has been absent from her life since she was a small child. Her Christian mother raised her as a Christian.

Sadly, Meriam is not the only Sudanese who chose differently on the matter of faith only to be faced with a death sentence for that choice. Sudanese civil activist Mahmud Muhammad Taha was arrested and charged with apostasy in 1984 for his efforts to end Sharia law in Sudan. He was subsequently executed.

In some countries, Christian converts have been forced to renounce their faith and conform to the version of Islam favored by the government of the day. Some of these countries have constitutions that ostensibly guarantee religious freedom even as they may also have laws that actually contradict those rights. Except for Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the other 15 countries including Sudan, have signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guaranteeing freedoms for their citizens.

Article 18 of that document enshrines "the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion." Speaking of the rights of the individual, that article also forbids "coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice. Article 18 also guarantees "the freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching."

The current report by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, or USCIRF, cites Sudan as a "country of particular concern" due to its government engaging in "systematic, ongoing and egregious violations of freedom of religion or belief." According to USCIRF, Sudan is the world's most violent abuser of the right to freedom of religion or belief.

USCIRF's Zudhi Jasser recommended in his testimony that not only should the U.S. Government take appropriate actions against Sudan as detailed in the International Religious Freedom Act, but that our government should also make religious freedom and human rights a centerpiece of U.S.-Sudan bilateral relations.

The troubling case of Meriam Ibrahim Ishag should warn of future incidents in which those who do not believe in Islam as defined by a government are persecuted or placed in fear of death or torture.

THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT WENDELL L. PEACOCK

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Wendell L. Peacock of the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Reserve Base on the occasion of his retirement.

Chief Peacock enlisted in the Air Force in 1981 and served eight years of active duty before joining the Air Force Reserve. He has held various assignments in the security forces career field. In 2007, he moved to Dobbins Air Reserve Base as a Security Forces Manager. Chief Peacock became the Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins in May 2011.

In this position, Chief Peacock has been the principal advisor to the commander and staff. He has been responsible for influencing mission readiness, utilization, morale, and quality of life for more than 1,600 enlisted Airmen. He has also coordinated with staff agencies and assists with the implementation of wing policies.

I had the privilege of working alongside Chief Peacock as a chaplain in the 94th Air Wing and had a close relationship with him. He exemplifies the very best traits that can be found among the ranks of our Armed Forces. I stand with many Airmen at Dobbins who will miss the Chief and wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING CELANESE CORPORATION AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my fellow colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Celanese Corporation as they celebrate their 10 year partnership with the South Collin County Habitat for Humanity.

Over the past decade, Celanese and Habitat have changed countless lives and have improved the future for families in our communities. In fact, since 2005, Celanese has donated over \$400,000 and over 7,500 volunteer hours towards building 10 Habitat for Humanity Homes. This year, almost 300 volunteers devoted 2,500 hours to complete a home for a family over 14 weekends. They must be proud of these accomplishments, I sure am.

When the strength of corporations and the hearts of volunteers come together the results are limitless. The noble work done by these two groups is to be commended and emulated by all.

A strong relationship between outstanding companies and selfless volunteer organizations is one of the fundamental building blocks of a safe and prosperous community. I thank all of those involved for their hard work, dedication, and promise of a brighter future for North Texans.

I look at the extraordinary accomplishments over the past 10 years, and can't help but look forward to the next 10 years. I'm confident that your hard-work, generosity, and compassion will continue to guide you and lead you to continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Celanese for their dedication to enhancing the lives of Collin County families. It is an honor and a privilege to represent the Celanese Corporation and its numerous employees in the United States Congress. God bless you. I salute you.

CONGRATULATING JOHN HANCOCK COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR AWARD AT THE 2014 MATE INTERNATIONAL REMOTELY OPERATED VEHICLE COMPETITION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Hancock College Prep High School and their Underwater Robotics team on their award in the 2014 MATE International Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition. I appreciate all of the hard work and dedication the team members have put in to build their ROV and would like to congratulate them on this tremendous accomplishment.

The Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center created the ROV competition in partnership with the Marine Technology Society ROV Committee to encourage students to excel in mathematics and science and to pursue careers in these fields. The MATE competition brings together K-12, community college, and university students from all over the world to design and build ROVs based on scenarios from the ocean workplace. In addition to engineering their ROVs, students were required to create technical reports and presentations to be delivered to competition judges.

In June, John Hancock College Prep High School traveled to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, MI after advancing from the Midwest regional. In competition with 29 other teams, they were awarded the "Biggest Bang for Buck Award" in the Ranger category for spending the least amount of money on a vehicle that performed exceptionally. Their underwater ROV, the "Aquatic Eagle", was designed to be a low-cost option for shipwreck and science investigations, as well as for conservation efforts. It was equipped with a camera, four motors, two hooks, and flotation devices. This is the first year that John Hancock College Prep High School has competed in the MATE contest.

The team included Hancock seniors Irving Alamilla, Jesus Caballero, Vincent Calderon, and Marisol Ramirez as well as juniors Carlos Barrios, Ivan Lopez, and Jennifer Mondragon. Ms. Jennifer McConnell Stites, a science teacher at John Hancock College Prep, was a mentor to the team.

John Hancock College Prep High School is a high school focused on college preparation, community service, and leadership. The school opened in 1999 and is located in the Third Congressional District on the Southwest Side of Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John Hancock College Prep High School on their remarkable achievement and I wish them the best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF RONALD W. WALKER

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ronald W. Walker of Pierson, Tennessee. Today, Mr. Walker retires from the

Federal Aviation Administration as a Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist after 32 years, 7 months, and 2 days of faithful service to the people of the United States of America and the Memphis Air Route Traffic Control Center.

I thank Mr. Walker for his service, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN APPRECIATION OF EARL F.
BROWN, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina today is giving loving recognition and appreciation for Earl F. Brown, Jr. His achievements are recognized with the article of July 24, 2014, by Jason Old for WIS television, and the obituary of July 30, 2014, in The State newspaper.

(WIS)—Earl F. Brown, a longtime community servant, has died at the age of 82. Brown was most recently Congressman Joe Wilson's deputy district director. He worked in the Second Congressional District Midlands office for 11 years. "This is a time to recognize an appreciated Patriot of our State," said Wilson. "From his Army service, his Columbia Rotary Club dedication, to rising to being Director of the Human Affairs Commission to the Congressional Office, Earl was driven by his love of people." Brown served as chairman of the Richland County Airport Commission among other public service positions with several groups including the Riverbanks Park Commission, Central Midlands Regional Council, SC Human Affairs Commission and others. He was also an active member of numerous organizations including the Columbia Rotary Club, Columbia Urban League, NAACP, National Teachers Association, and United Way of the Midlands. "His ready smile and can do attitude will be sorely missed by those who knew and served with him," said Jim Hamilton, former airport manager of Jim Hamilton—L.B. Owens Airport. Brown is a graduate of Savannah State College, Benedict College and University of South Carolina's Criminal Justice Masters Program. He served in the U.S. Army and also worked as a public school teacher. His daughter Kim says her father was active in the community well into his retirement and wants people to know Brown believed it's never too late to get involved. "His loss is personal to the Wilson Family where four generations have affectionately identified him as 'Uncle Earl', a tradition that started with the births of our four grandchildren at Lexington Medical Center as Earl was always the first visitor bringing flowers," said Wilson. "Our sympathy to his daughter Kim, son Felton, and his beloved church family at Brookland Baptist Church," said Wilson. Brown's funeral will be Thursday, July 31 at 12 noon at Brookland Baptist Church. He will be buried at the National Cemetery at Fort Jackson.

Obituary of July 30, 2014, in the State newspaper.

(The State) Earl Felton Brown, Jr. COLUMBIA.—Funeral services for Mr. Earl Felton Brown, Jr. will be held Thursday at 12:00 noon, at the Brookland Baptist Church, with burial and military honors in the Ft. Jackson National Cemetery. A family visitation will be held this evening beginning at 6:30

p.m., at the Leevy's Funeral Home, Taylor Street Chapel. Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Mr. Brown graduated from Savannah State College and Benedict College. He completed additional studies at Duke University and the University of South Carolina School of Law, Court Administration Program. Throughout his distinguished career, he worked at W. A. Perry Middle School, Cheney State University, Vorhees College, the S.C. State Human Affairs Commission, and retired as the Deputy District Director of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. He served his country in the United States Army, was a dedicated member of Brookland Baptist Church and Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc. Surviving are his former wife of 25 years, Rudyne Davis Brown; children, Felton Earl Brown, II and Kim Lanette (Marshall) Brown-Jackson; grandchild, TaiLa Sacarian Brown; great-grandchild, Juelz Domini Brown; his brother, Ernest Arnell (Beverly) Brown, sister, Doretha (Lester) Turner, other loving relatives and friends. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Brookland Foundation, 1066, Sunset Blvd., West Columbia, 29169.

At the services S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson presented a eulogy on behalf of the appreciative Wilson family.

THE 2014 MEDICARE TRUSTEES
REPORT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Medicare Trustees' report projected that the Medicare Hospital Trust Fund would remain solvent until 2030, four years beyond last year's projection and 13 years longer than was projected in 2009.

In the 50 months since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, health care costs have risen at a slower rate than any comparable period in the last 50 years.

And per capita spending is projected to continue to grow slower than the overall economy during the coming years.

This is in part due to the reforms implemented in the Affordable Care Act.

We have made progress in reducing hospital readmissions, improving patient safety and transitioning to new payment models that reward quality and reduce costs.

Thanks to these important steps, the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries has improved, along with the long-term solvency of Medicare.

For the second year in a row Medicare Part B premiums will not grow, meaning that seniors will be able to keep more of their annual Social Security COLA.

The ACA has also saved America's seniors over \$11.5 billion in prescription drug costs by improving drug benefits and closing the "donut hole."

I am proud to have played a significant role in the authorship of ACA and hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will come together and look for ways to further improve ACA and Medicare.

Now is the time to build on these successes and ensure all Americans have access to quality affordable care and that our health care system remains on a path to fiscal solvency.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL
JOSEPH E. MARTZ

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Lieutenant General Joseph E. Martz of the U.S. Army. With his retirement approaching, he will soon close out an incredible thirty-six years of service to his nation and begin the next chapter of his life.

LTG Martz currently serves as the Military Deputy for Budget to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller) and is responsible for the accountability and execution of the current fiscal year Army budget. He shoulders the responsibility of requesting and resourcing the appropriate funds to defend the nation. His profound knowledge is of immense value to the Army and our national security.

A native of New Kensington, Pennsylvania, LTG Martz enlisted in 1974 and later graduated from both the United States Military Academy and the U.S. Army Ranger School. His career of service took him from Germany to Korea to Kuwait. Whether commanding prestigious units or serving in key staff positions, he kept the needs of the mission first and always took care of his soldiers.

LTG Martz knows that a great warrior is also a great scholar. After earning a Master's in Education from the University of South Carolina, he served as a tactical officer and as the Executive Officer to the Commandant of Cadets at the United States Military Academy. While at the academy he influenced and groomed the future officers of the Army.

LTG Martz's great work has not gone unnoticed. He is a unique officer who excelled in his assignments and earned the Pace Award—a prestigious award that recognizes a single staff officer for his or her extraordinary achievements.

His devotion to country is matched only by his commitment to family. He is married to his lovely wife Barb and is the proud father of two sons—Josh and Tim, both of whom are graduates from the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Penn State.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I commend LTG Martz for his selfless service to his nation and to the United States Army. His leadership has positively impacted soldiers and families across the world. I wish him and his family only the best in the years ahead.

HONORING REVEREND THADDEUS
J. WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams is married to the former Teresa L. Buckner and the father

to four children: Sam, Dante, Philip, and Alexandria. He is a Licensed and Ordained Minister of the Gospel and currently serves as Minister of Membership Assimilation at Greater Fairview Baptist Church.

Reverend Williams is currently enrolled in Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College pursuing a Master in Christian Education. He earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Mississippi Valley State University in 1987 and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Mississippi in 1991. He is a graduate of the Mississippi Certified Public Manager Program, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Leadership Yazoo City's Inaugural Class in 1992, and the 2008 Inaugural Class of FOCUS—DMH's Succession Planning/Accelerated Leadership Development Program.

Reverend Williams organized and has facilitated T and T (Thad and Teresa) Food/Outreach Ministry since 2000 where they have received both national and local recognition for their service to the community including the 2014 "WJTV Jefferson Award" and the 2013 Southern Christian Services "Hands of Providence Award."

Reverend Williams has served as Chaplain for the Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association, employed with the State of Mississippi since 1992 and currently with Mississippi Department of Mental Health's Central Office where he was voted by his peers as the 2012 Employee of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY LOU LAVAL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Betty Lou Laval, who passed away on June 27, 2014, at the age of 79. Betty Lou's optimism and appreciation for life will be missed greatly by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Betty Lou spent most of her life in Fresno, California. She met her future husband, Claude Laval III, in kindergarten at Heaton Elementary School. For a short time, she left Fresno and attended the University of Southern California on a full scholarship. Betty Lou was a very active member of the Delta Gamma Sorority and recently attended their 50th reunion. She adored her alma mater and was one of the university's greatest supporters.

Betty Lou and Claude were married for 57 years. They raised two daughters: Melinda and Luann. Family was most important to Betty Lou. Her children and grandchildren—Nicholas, Chase, and Ellery—took priority over everything else in her life. Betty Lou will be greatly missed by Claude, her daughters, grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and relatives.

Staying involved in the community was always very important to Betty Lou. She was an active member of the Junior League of Fresno and served on the Board of Trustees for Children's Hospital Central California. She was

also a dedicated member of La Feliz Guild for over 40 years.

One of Betty Lou's greatest passions was music, and she was a very talented musician. Betty Lou could play any string instrument and especially loved the banjo and ukulele. In addition to her appreciation for music, Betty Lou also enjoyed traveling with Claude. They visited many different countries together, making friends from all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Betty Lou Laval. Betty Lou will be remembered as someone who always brought joy to others, and her commitment and dedication to the community she loved dearly will never be forgotten.

TONY GELDENS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Tony Geldens is known locally in Kingwood, Texas for being a community and political activist and strong patriot. There is much more of a heroic story to tell.

It gives me great honor to tell you about Tony Geldens' courageous account of resistance under Nazi Germany's control of the Netherlands. Throughout World War Two, Tony courageously fought Hitler's Nazis as a member of the Dutch Underground. He helped to feed, hide, and protect Dutch Jews.

Born in the 1920s, Tony grew up in Hertogenbosch, Netherlands where his dad owned a brick factory. Like most of the world in the 1930s, the Netherlands, suffered from a Depression.

Tony grew up belonging to the Boy Scouts, like most Dutch teenagers, camping with fellow Scouts, riding bicycles along canals and by old brick buildings. Tony remembers a close circle of friends consisting of both Christians and Jews. After school, like most young boys, they all enjoyed hanging out together.

However, on May 10, 1940, most of Tony's world suddenly changed. Sixteen year old Tony was camping in the woods, close to his dad's factory, when without warning the German Army invaded the Netherlands. His dad came and retrieved Tony from his camping site, and the family quickly evacuated to their home ahead of the invading forces. The Dutch resistance held out for three days before surrendering; marking the beginning of the Nazi Germany's occupation of the Netherlands.

The Nazi occupiers soon imposed anti-Jewish measures on all Dutch Jews. As was throughout Nazi Germany, Dutch Jews were required to wear a yellow Star of David at all times. Strict curfews were enforced, Jews could not own businesses, and students were forced to transfer to segregated Jewish schools.

In January 1941, Hitler required all Jews to register themselves as Jews. A total of nearly 160,000 Jews in the Netherlands registered. They were issued ID cards stamped with the letter "J" for Jew.

Unlike many, Tony remained in the Netherlands during World War Two, even after having the opportunity to leave. Remaining because he felt compelled to stay and fight

against the injustices occurring in his country. After Germany invaded, he withdrew from high school due to the war, and then much later attended Architecture school in Tilburg, Netherlands. It was there he met his wife, Anna.

As time went on, the harshness of the Nazi occupation grew. Notice was sent to all Dutch Jews that they would have shipped to work in Germany—forced labor.

Tony was outraged towards the Nazi's treatment of Jews, he and fellow Scouts decided to join the Dutch Resistance effort. Although, the Nazis had immediately disbanded the Boy Scouts, Tony and his friends would always remember the Scout promise, to do their best to do their duty to God and Country; and to other people.

Under Nazi control, resistance was forbidden and often quite dangerous. All resistance happened illegally and occupiers were ruthless.

Captured members of The Dutch Underground were usually shot, imprisoned, or sent to concentration camps.

Nonetheless, Tony and his loyal band of Scouts were not deterred from joining the resistance movement.

Without an organized leader, Tony began a covert four year fight against the Nazis, saving Jews from starvation, torture, imprisonment, and death.

Like a war time Robin Hood, Tony fed hundreds of Jews by holding up German food stamp offices to obtaining food ration books. Drawing from his hobby building radios, he also operated a radio transmitter which transmitted to England information about downed British pilots and Nazi movements.

He would also help downed allied pilots by hiding them among different homes of Dutch citizens until they were able to reach safety in France.

As a result of his actions, he was arrested and imprisoned numerous times. When imprisoned, the Nazis beat and tortured him for information concerning the Dutch resistance cells, or Dutch Jews.

Several times they administered "truth serum"—it never worked! Sometimes they let him go and sometimes he escaped—just to be rearrested again. The last few days before the war ended were the hardest for Tony. One day, Tony came home and discovered an empty house. He ran next door to his priest to find answers. After investigating, the priest informed Tony that the Nazis were holding his family and they would give him three days to turn himself in.

After the third day, Nazis shot his mother first, then his sisters and then his father.

Wanted posters with Tony's picture began to be circulated on trees around Hertogenbosch. In order to save his family, Tony resolved to turn himself in to the authorities. He said his goodbyes to his priest, friends and family. He hid at a bombed out railroad station; sleeping between the railroad ties. On his way to turn himself in, he saw the Canadian Red Cross working the area.

According to Tony the hardest moment throughout everything, was to see liberators but knew he had to turn himself into the Nazis.

Halfway during his trial, shooting broke out between the Canadian soldiers and the Nazi police.

Once again, Tony was able to escape. However, while Tony was at his trial, German Nazis had evacuated his family along with

hundreds of Dutch Resistance citizens thirty miles away.

With the intentions of murdering the resistance fighters, the Nazis put them in five different buildings and subsequently blew up the buildings, including city hall. Miraculously, his family was at the end of the line going into the building and unbeknownst to the Nazi's they hadn't entered before it was demolished. Unlike so many others, they survived.

Soon after, the Netherlands was liberated. At this point however, they thought Tony was dead. Imagine the Geldens reunion when they learned they all had survived.

During World War II, the Nazis deported 107,000 Dutch Jews to concentration camps. Only 5,200 survived. The Dutch Underground helped hide 25,000 to 30,000 Jews. Two-thirds of Dutch Jews in hiding survived the war. Less than 25 percent of Dutch Jews survived the Holocaust.

Tony and thousands like him put his life on the line for freedom. He saw the concentration camps and the victims of the Nazis. He saw friends murdered.

He saw incredible numbers of new graves throughout Holland. But like so many of his generation, he never discusses the details. He does not see himself as a hero; oftentimes the greatest acts of heroism and courage are the ones that go most unnoticed.

After the liberation of the Netherlands, Tony became a successful architect. He stayed and helped rebuild his hometown and his country. Eventually, in 1967 he found his way to Texas, and became a United States citizen in 2000. He and his wife, Anna, raised five children in their home in Kingwood. He now loves this adopted country; and he loves Texas. Tony is a true patriot. He fought the good fight up until his death, July 29th, 2014. He was 90 years old.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize and honor my friend, Tony Geldens, for his part in saving Dutch Jews in World War Two. He was a person of great courage, dignity and compassion and his actions were truly heroic.

The city of Kingwood lost a tremendous man. Tony's selfless service truly made the world a better place. He leaves behind an amazing story, wonderful legacy and a grateful local and national community. I am proud to say I knew Mr. Gelden. He was one of Texas's best.

And that's just the way it is.

H.R. 4315, THE 21ST CENTURY ENDANGERED SPECIES TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 4315, a package of bills that would weaken the process by which the Administration makes Endangered Species Act (ESA) determinations.

While H.R. 4315 is nothing more than a partisan talking point, it does raise an important debate about the need to reform our regulations to make them more performance-based. Instead of establishing specific rules that tell stakeholders how to achieve specific outcomes, our regulations should instead identify

exactly what we want and allow for multiple paths and discretion for achieving set outcomes. By holding local governments, states, and the private sector accountable, while allowing for flexibility, we can reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and make our regulations more efficient and effective without undercutting public and environmental protections.

The ESA has a clear intention of protecting threatened wildlife species and from 1973 to 2013, it has prevented extinction for 99% of species under its protection. H.R. 4315 does not improve the process, and only moves us away from achieving further wildlife protection and recovery goals.

While framed as a way to roll back red tape, this bill instead creates additional layers of bureaucracy through burdensome and unnecessary reporting requirements on the details of all ESA lawsuit expenditures made by the Department of Interior, the Forest Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Bonneville, Western Area, Southwestern and Southeastern Power Administrations. Given that our federal agencies are already resource-constrained, these requirements will only distract from the charge to protect threatened and endangered species.

The bill also downgrades the quality of science used in the ESA determination process, by defining all data provided by a State, Tribal or county government as the "best available" data without any review of whether or not it actually is the best data.

This legislation does not further the important goals of species recovery efforts. Congress should work to reform regulation in a way that helps agencies, Tribes, local government and private industry increase performance measures, not create additional bureaucracies and waste limited public resources. I oppose this legislation, yet another in a long series of bills passed this Congress to undermine important environmental protections. I was disappointed to see it pass.

SUNSCREEN INNOVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4250, the Sunscreen Innovation Act. This legislation will support the important work of the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation of Palm Beach County, Florida.

Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer, killing one American every fifty minutes. Residents of Florida are especially vulnerable to the cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation from the sun. The Sunscreen Innovation Act will help Floridians protect themselves with the latest radiation-blocking sunscreen ingredients.

I would like to thank the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation for their tireless work in preventing and detecting skin cancer, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I yield back my time.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
VINCE AND PAT FOGLIA

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, Abraham Lincoln once said, "Commitment is what transforms a promise into a reality."

It's with these words in mind that I rise today to recognize Vince and Pat Foglia for their extraordinary spirit of generosity and commitment to people with disabilities in their community as manifested by their years of service and support of the work done by the Pioneer Center for Human Services in McHenry, Illinois.

On June 20, 2014, I was honored to salute them when they received the inaugural "Make Change" Award presented by the Center.

For years, Pioneer Center has lived out its mission of "empowering individuals to achieve their full potential." It engages people of all abilities throughout the community through innovative, effective, and compassionate services. This includes employing and finding meaningful job opportunities for exceptional people to achieve individual and organizational excellence.

When Pioneer Center was in search of client work opportunities, it approached Vince and Pat, and in typical fashion their response went beyond expectations.

As chairman of the board of Sage Products, a global leader in the innovation and manufacture of disposable health care products, Vince understands the meaning of work to people with disabilities. He immediately agreed to partner with Pioneer Center and provide work for the clients.

Vince further "transformed a promise into a reality" by hiring Pioneer clients as employees of Sage. Vince and Pat take pride in knowing their employees personally—a reflection of their heartfelt compassion for helping others.

Vince and Pat also funded the client computer lab at Pioneer Center that included specialized equipment for people with disabilities.

But their benevolence isn't limited to providing opportunities and monetary support. In keeping with their passion and commitment to give back, Vince and Pat have made it a point to stay engaged with Pioneer Center seeking opportunities where they can meet whatever challenges confront Pioneer Center so that they can continue to make a difference in others' lives.

Vince and Pat, how fitting it is for you to be honored with the "Make Change" Award, for your acts of compassion and dedication to helping others have surely made an impactful change for those whose lives and circumstances you touch.

It is with great privilege and heartfelt appreciation that I take this opportunity to recognize you both for your work and charitable spirit.

Your commitment has indeed transformed the promise of hope into the reality of a better future for so many people. For that I wholeheartedly thank you and congratulate you on your well-deserved award.

HONORING LATONYA DENISE
COTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a determined young lady, LaTonya Denise Cotton. Ms. Cotton has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to make a positive difference in her community.

LaTonya Denise Cotton, a resident of Anguilla, Mississippi, was born on January 29, 1976 to Diane Cotton and Tom Davis in Hollandale Mississippi. She is a graduate of Anguilla High School.

LaTonya is the author of a historical novel called "A Small Payton Place in a Town Called Anguilla". She has plans to make a movie based on the novel. LaTonya has served as a volunteer through the AmeriCorps program as a career trainer in Sharkey County.

LaTonya has been a devout member of Union Chapel Baptist Church in Anguilla, MS for thirty one years. She is the proud parent of two girls, Dominique and Sumonia Cotton. She enjoys time with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. LaTonya Denise Cotton for her dedication to serving her community.

TRIBUTE TO GARY JOB CORPS
CENTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Job Corps Center for 50 years of providing successful service to the people of San Marcos, Texas.

Located on a campus of 1,000 acres at the former Gary Army Air Field, Gary Job Corps is the largest of 125 Job Corps campuses nationwide, enrolling a growing number of nearly 2,000 young men and women. The increasing number of enrollment at Gary Job Corps represents the fulfillment of President Johnson's 1964 promise he made while visiting the former Southwest Texas State University. President Johnson's promise was to develop a Job Corps camp to train young men and women in the skills that would allow them to contribute to their community and become leaders.

For 50 years, Gary Job Corps has continuously helped young men and women achieve their academic and professional dreams. In addition to providing vocational training for careers in health occupations, business, computers, cooking, driver's education, and numerous other industries, their alumni have continued their education to the student bodies of Texas State University, Alamo Community College, and other institutions of higher education.

Gary Job Corps has helped countless young Texans achieve their life goals, has helped bring economic growth, educational achievement, and the promise of a better future to Central Texas. I am happy to have this oppor-

tunity to congratulate Gary Job Corps on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and I wish all of its staff and students many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 699

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H. Res. 699, Welcoming African leaders to the first United States-Africa Leaders' Summit and African trade ministers to the 13th Forum of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

At the start of the new millennium, the United States Congress enacted the African Growth and Opportunity Act—AGOA—with broad, bipartisan support and with a view to expanding growth and opportunity in Africa like never before. In this legislation, Congress called for the establishment of high-level dialogues, including regular meetings by the President with his African counterparts. Now, fourteen years later, that vision is coming true.

Next week, the largest delegation of African heads-of-state in United States history will make its way to the White House. This will truly be a great day for America and a great day for our friends and partners from across the African continent, and I take immense pleasure in welcoming this historic delegation to our nation's capital.

Africa has six of the ten fastest growing economies in the world, over one billion people, sixty percent of the world's uncultivated agricultural land, and is likely to replace China as the biggest contributor to the global workforce by 2050. The people of Africa share the hopes and aspirations of all Americans for peace and prosperity across both our lands, and they are committed to strengthening economic relations through mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities which promote economic growth, development, poverty reduction, democracy, stability, and the rule of law.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act is one of those opportunities, and I would like to use this chance to emphasize the importance of renewing AGOA well before its expiration in September 2015. Since the passage of AGOA, U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa have increased from \$6.9 billion to \$23.9 billion, per capita income in sub-Saharan Africa has more than tripled, and U.S. investment in sub-Saharan Africa has increased six-fold.

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution, which already has broad, bipartisan support, recognizes the significant progress and hope that modern Africa represents today in global affairs and economic advancement with its booming demographics, increasing modernization, dynamic youth, and vast resources; and it acknowledges the many paths available for boosting cultural, trade, and economic relations and partnerships between the United States and Africa.

It is in the economic and national security interests of the United States to engage and compete in emerging African markets, to foster U.S.-Africa trade and investment, to support greater capacity building for Africa, and to invest in Africa's youth and emerging leaders.

It is also in our national interest to advocate good governance, a respect for human rights and constitutional term limits, and support for civil society organizations which contribute to enduring economic and social development.

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution demonstrates that the United States Congress stands beside Africa in promoting peace and prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. I look forward to your timely support of H. Res. 699 on the eve of the United States-Africa Leaders' Summit, as we prepare to welcome our African friends and partners to this nation's great capital for a truly historic occasion. Thank you very much.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STARTUP
ACT OF 2014

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Mr. VALADAO of California, introduced the bipartisan Startup Act of 2014. The Startup Act provides immigrant entrepreneurs and foreign graduates of U.S. universities with the opportunity to appeal and extend their visa by two years on the condition that they secure financing from a U.S. investor and demonstrate the ability to create jobs and bolster the U.S. economy.

If they are able to demonstrate success, by securing additional funding, generating revenue and creating jobs, they would be eligible for legal permanent residency, enabling them to continue to create more American jobs, expand and improve their business, and reinvigorate the United States as the land of opportunity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Our history as a nation has been defined by immigrant innovators, pioneers, and entrepreneurs. Many of the world's best and brightest minds come to this country seeking the freedom and resources necessary to turn their ideas into successful businesses. Transformative U.S. companies including Google, Yahoo, Pfizer, Intel and eBay all began as startups founded by immigrants.

Today, foreign born entrepreneurs come to the United States, graduate from our universities and start businesses on our soil, only to find that our country's archaic, complex visa restrictions make it difficult for them to stay in this country and continue to develop their business, contribute to our economy, and create American jobs.

This places us at a competitive disadvantage at a time when our foreign competitors are catching up. For example, in 2009 foreign innovators were awarded more patents than U.S. inventors for the first time; whereas a decade ago the U.S. held 57 percent of all patents worldwide.

With two Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, it's easy to see the benefits of immigrant innovators in my home state. Freeport-McMoRan is a leading natural resource company which employs thousands of Arizonans. Avnet Inc. is another innovative Phoenix based company and one of the largest distributors of electronic components, computer products, and embedded technology.

We also have a multitude of smaller startups founded by foreign entrepreneurs.

Sumiko Glenn emigrated from Japan and after graduating from Texas Tech University, founded her own tax consulting firm, Glenn Consulting LLC, in Mesa, Arizona. Gelie Akhenblit left Moldova with her family to come to Arizona, where her later studies in Communication at Arizona State University led her to launch NetworkingPhoenix.com as a way to fill the advertising needs of our state through social media. In the state of Arizona, immigrants make up 13.4 percent of population; own 19.6 percent of businesses, and start 31.5 percent of new businesses.

If we are going to protect America's position as the global leader in innovation, we must ensure that tomorrow's entrepreneurs have every opportunity to build and develop their ideas on American soil. The Startup Act of 2014 will create high-wage jobs here in the United States, spur private investment and economic growth, and help ensure that America remains globally competitive. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VIRGINIA LEE ROSE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Virginia Lee Rose. Virginia was truly a pillar in the Madera community. Her time and energy spent to better the lives of individuals throughout the region will always be remembered.

Virginia was born on September 27, 1934, in Rayville, Louisiana. She attended Merritt College in Oakland, California where she received an Associate's Degree. After graduating, Virginia worked as a Probation Aide with the Alameda County Probation Department.

In 1953, Virginia moved to Madera, California. She and her husband, John, built a very nice life together and raised two beautiful daughters, Margaret and Jacklyn.

Virginia's philanthropic efforts and hard work were crucial to the development of numerous public, private, and nonprofit organizations in Madera County. Some of these organizations include the Madera County Chamber of Commerce Crime Prevention Commission, the Madera County Cultural Diversity Committee, and the Interagency Child and Youth Services Council. Virginia volunteered with over 15 organizations throughout the community, demonstrating her dedication to improve the lives of residents in Madera.

Virginia's good work and efforts never went unnoticed. She was honored with numerous awards from the community, including: the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award, the Victim Services Volunteer of the Year award, and the Golden Apple Award from the Mariposa/Madera Chapter of the Association of California School Administrations. Additionally, Madera Community Hospital recognized Virginia for dedicating 15 years of service to the hospital.

Virginia will be greatly missed by John, Margaret, Jacklyn, her granddaughters, Shanel, LeeAnn, and Amanda, and many relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of Virginia Lee Rose, an individual who dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. Her presence will undoubtedly be missed, but her impact and influence in the community she loved dearly will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. OSCAR JESUS CANTU

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Oscar Jesus Cantu, a championship boxer from Kingsville, Texas.

Oscar is a lifelong resident of Kingsville, Texas and has been boxing since the age of eight at Kingsville Boxing Club. In 2009, Oscar graduated from H.M. King High School with honors and continued his education at Texas A&M University—Kingsville.

In 2012, Oscar was an alternate on the U.S. Olympic boxing team. He holds the World Boxing Council's USNBC Title won in Kingsville, Texas on March 22, 2014 and is currently ranked within the top one hundred boxers in the super-flyweight class by the International Boxing Organization.

Oscar actively gives back to his Kingsville community and manages an organization named "I Am Second," which encourages students to avoid destructive behaviors and find hope, peace, and fulfillment. Additionally, he serves as a role model to children by volunteering as a boxing coach at the Kingsville Boxing Club.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Mr. Oscar Jesus Cantu and his contributions to the sport of boxing. Further, I appreciate you joining me in recognizing his contributions to Kingsville, Texas.

HONORING MRS. MARY LEE TAYLOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former educator and longtime community activist from Tallahatchie County, MS, Mrs. Mary Lee Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor is 101 years old. She was born January 17, 1913 in Paynes, MS. Her years have been long and her mind is full of many stories her eyes have seen. I am talking about trying times, historical eras, blue skies, and personal achievements.

Mrs. Taylor is a 1936 graduate of the Tallahatchie County Training School. She went on to continue her education at Rust College in Holly Springs, MS and at the Mississippi Vocational College (now referred to as Mississippi Valley State University) in Itta Bena, MS. There she received her Bachelor of Science Degree.

Her age has not had an effect on her memory which brings smiles to her face. One of her personal achievements is that Mrs. Taylor

is the only person in her family who received an education, according to her son, Mervyn Leon Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor taught 1st grade and adult education classes. Another achievement of Mrs. Taylor is that she was one of the original pioneers who led the effort to bring the Head Start program to Charleston and across Tallahatchie County. Her list of fighting for the citizens of Tallahatchie County and surrounding communities goes on to include road improvements in the Black community, and bringing electricity and telephone service to the Black communities.

Her son, Mervyn, said his mother wasn't just active locally but also overseas. She traveled to poverty stricken areas on mission trips. Mrs. Taylor was also an active member in her church, St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church. She served as president of the local missionary, president of the Northern District Episcopal faith domination, and missionary president of the northern and southern Mississippi C.M.E. conferences.

Mrs. Taylor is the widow of the late Mr. Jimmy M. Taylor. She now lives in the Blue Cane Community, right outside of Charleston.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Lee Taylor a pioneer in her community who has helped to pave the way for others, like you and me, to come along.

"ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE" ENERGY APPROACH

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of an "all-of-the-above" energy approach for our nation's future. By taking this fair and reasonable approach to domestic energy exploration and production, we can properly care for the energy needs of families and businesses in New York, and across the country, while promoting American jobs, boosting national security and taking care of the environment.

Last year, 13 percent of electricity in the United States was produced from renewable sources, ranking us second in the world. This development has improved environmental quality while providing power to our nation's homes and businesses. Since I care about our fellow Americans health, this is the right thing to do. Additionally, the growing use of alternative and renewable fuels lower imports of foreign energy, improves our national security by reducing foreign energy consumption, and creates jobs for families across the country. In addition, clean natural gas development is bringing with it job growth and revitalizing manufacturing in towns and cities across America.

We can create jobs, provide quality energy to American businesses and families, care for the environment and support national security if we, as a nation, focus on an "all-of-the-above" energy approach.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF GENERAL WILLIAM SHELTON TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONSTITUENTS OF COLORADO'S FIFTH DISTRICT

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize General William L. Shelton, Commander of Air Force Space Command, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

Over the course of his 38-year career in the United States Air Force, General Shelton has served with great distinction and made countless sacrifices for our country. We commend his service; the sacrifices of his family in support of his service, including his wife Linda and their two children Sara and Joel; and must express our great appreciation for his leadership and devotion to our Nation's security.

A graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, General Shelton's selection as the Commander of Air Force Space Command in January 2011 culminates a distinguished career that began in 1976 at the Space and Missile Test Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. In a career dedicated to the space enterprise, he commanded units at Falcon/Schriever, F.E. Warren, Offutt, Vandenberg, and Peterson Air Force Bases. He also provided valuable leadership and counsel to the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Joint Staff community during multiple Headquarters U.S. Air Force assignments. His positive leadership directly influenced countless men and women in our Armed Forces, and the enduring effects of his service to our country will be felt for years to come.

General Shelton has been a vigilant advocate for national security space programs. As the Commander of Air Force Space Command, he was responsible for organizing, training and equipping more than 40,000 military and civilian personnel to assure space and cyberspace capabilities for the Combatant Commands and for the Nation. While space and cyberspace capabilities clearly contribute to making our military unmatched in combat operations, they also have become essential in humanitarian and disaster relief efforts and are now vital assets for the global community and world economy. Through his leadership, we enjoy unprecedented success in the areas of space launch and acquisition which have led to greater mission assurance and cost savings across the Department of Defense. Further, his vision on future space capabilities will position us to make the changes necessary to provide resilient, capable and affordable space capabilities for the joint force and the Nation well into the future.

General Shelton established an unmatched and sustained level of success during a time of increasing challenges. He has worked closely with the House Armed Services Committee, and it has been my great pleasure to work with him in that important capacity. His frank and informed discussions on our space systems, particularly the Global Positioning Satellite system, have helped leaders and citizens around the world appreciate the value

and need to protect our Nation's foundational space capabilities. As a member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, I am grateful for General Shelton's wise counsel and firm resolve to always do what is best for the Nation and for the Airmen he has led.

With nearly four decades of exemplary service to our Nation, General William L. Shelton deserves our most heartfelt gratitude and praise. Thank you, General Shelton—and best wishes to you and your family.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday 30, 2014

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters in support of the Export-Import Bank:

1. Letter from Steve Wilburn, President and CEO, FirmGreen, July 21, 2014
2. Letter from Greenery Solutions, Inc, June 23, 2014
3. Letter from Brek Manufacturing to Ranking Member Maxine Waters
4. Letter from Hansen Engineering Company, July 23, 2014
5. Statement from Fritz-Pak, June 17, 2014
6. Letter from Boyle Energy Services & Technology, Inc, July 22, 2014

JULY 21, 2014.

HON. MAXINE WATERS,
Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER WATERS: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ranking Member, Chairman Hensarling, all the Committee Members and staff, for the opportunity of testifying before the House Committee on Financial Services on June 25, 2014.

It was an extreme honor to appear before the Committee. Only in America can a disabled Veteran small business owner like me, hope to share the national stage with a multi-billion international conglomerate, and have my voice heard on such a critical issue as the Reauthorization of the Export Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank US).

I remain deeply concerned over the continuing negative comments and name calling emanating from many members of Congress concerning the Reauthorization of the Export Import Bank of the United States. I believe such public comments are harming US Exporters and helping to embolden our overseas competitors. As stated in my testimony, "Words have consequences." FirmGreen lost an order worth \$57 million due to the uncertainty created by a vocal minority of Congressional critics opposed to Ex-Bank Reauthorization.

I feel that the current economic recovery occurring in the US is fragile. We are experiencing mounting trade deficits. I firmly believe that the decades-long decline and deterioration of the once formidable United States industrial and manufacturing base is having a negative effect on our economy and our national security.

In 1970, more than a quarter of U.S. employees worked in manufacturing. Today, the number is only one in 10. Over 76 percent of current jobs in the US are in the Service Sector.

Ensuring the viability of our manufacturing and industrial sectors is critical to providing jobs that pay good wages, is important to the recovery of our struggling economy and is vital to the defense of our Republic.

In my opinion, we cannot continue to be a global power capable of responding to serious threats to US interests worldwide, without the support of a strong industrial manufacturing base.

According to declassified CIA reports, China has overtaken Japan and is now second to the United States in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In recent years, led by a strong expansion of its Industrial and Manufacturing Base, China has more than doubled the USA's rate of growth in GDP.

According to the CIA's World Fact Book, as of 2013, China and the European Union are ahead of the United States in Exports. More troubling than the shrinking dollar amount of US exports, is a growing trade deficit in "manufactured" goods.

In order for US Exporters to recover from the recent economic downturn and create jobs, they must have access to sufficient working capital and credit support. Since the near total collapse of the Global Banking system in 2008, Export Credit Agencies (ECA's) and Development Finance Institutions (DFI's) have played an increasingly important role in financing exports.

While US commercial banks are still recovering, sources of capital for US exporters have become constrained. On the world stage, nations and private clients seeking to import manufactured goods and technology have increasingly looked to the competitively priced financial products provided by ECA's and DFI's. Chinese, Japanese and Korean competitors to FirmGreen, and other US Exporters have easy access to very attractive finance terms being offered by the Chinese, Japanese and Korean ECA's.

FirmGreen's export potential has been directly affected by the uncertainty of reauthorization of Ex-Im Bank US and the aggressive finance terms offered by the Korean Ex-Im Bank (KEXIM). (See Attached Letter from Greenery, Solutions, Inc.).

In many of the international markets where FirmGreen competes, ECAs are providing the only project finance available. In the energy infrastructure marketplace, fully nine out of 10 projects that get done on a true project finance basis have ECA support.

"JBIC remains a global leader for energy and infrastructure project finance; KEXIM is rising in prominence, particularly in energy; Chinese institutions are also very active and increasingly willing to work with other International finance providers as opposed to going it alone as they have done in the past." (Source Baker and McKenzie 2013 Report on the Rise of ECA's and DFI's).

The Export-Import Bank of the United States allows US Manufacturers, such as FirmGreen, to compete on an equal basis with the project finance terms being offered by foreign ECA's and DFI's. Ex-Im Bank US provides valuable comfort to US commercial banks, allowing them to provide the longer tenor loans that are essential for many US Exporters, and vital for FirmGreen's credit-worthy energy and infrastructure projects.

In summation, as a combat decorated Veteran, small business owner, job creator, exporter and concerned citizen, I believe that we should not unilaterally disarm and abandon the very governmental agency that allows US Manufacturers and other US Exporters to fairly compete on the world's trading stage.

I strongly urge members of Congress to support the Reauthorization of Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Respectfully Submitted,

STEVE WILBURN,
President, CEO.

JUNE 23, 2014.

Mr. STEVE WILBURN,
Chief Executive Officer, FirmGreen, Inc., Newport Beach, CA.

DEAR MR. WILBURN: In view of the uncertainty of the reauthorization of the Exim Bank, and project finance structure you proposed had become problematic, we have made the decision in May this year not to proceed with your project offering.

Our previous partner-developer has provided us assurance of the certainty of obtaining satisfactory finance from the Export-Import Bank of Korea for our Cavite Biomass-Waste-to-Energy Project.

With previous discussion with you, we had the impression that your company, FirmGreen can provide the best technology for our project, but without terms similar to what being offered by the Exim Bank of Korea, it will be impossible for our company to conclude a transaction.

If you can produce a Letter of Interest (LOI) from the Exim Bank of the United States by June 30, 2014, our company will reconsider using FirmGreen technology for the project and reconsider retaining FirmGreen as the project Technical Operator for this important project.

The roadmap to obtaining the long term project finance commitment on favorable terms is critical in our decision making process.

We hope that this all be worked out to the satisfaction of both our companies.

Very truly yours,

RUTH P. BRIONES,
President/CEO, Greenergy Solutions Inc.

AUGUST 26, 2014.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,

DEAR RANKING MEMBER WATERS: Brek Manufacturing Company is a small business in California with 170 employees, who have a critical interest in foreign sale of Boeing Commercial Aircraft. The Export-Import Bank plays an important role as an intermediary in the sale of these aircraft. This letter is to express our support for the Ex-Im bank, as it is key to securing additional sales of Boeing Commercial Aircraft.

Our company produces approximately 40 percent of our output to Boeing Commercial Aircraft customers, with the other 60 percent representing military customers.

With the decrease of the military business available, it is critical that the commercial sales be kept as high as possible to preserve the industrial infrastructure that this company and that of other companies in our industry represent.

Our representatives who support the military must also be concerned with the Ex-Im Bank because of the role it plays in supporting jobs in companies like this one, large and small, across the country.

Although our company is not a household name like Boeing, we supply critical aircraft structural components which are key to successful, safe air transport and air defense. There are many others like us who represent thousands of high skilled and well paid positions with good benefits.

Please express our support for the Ex-Im Bank to your colleagues. We are counting on them to do the right thing and support American manufacturing jobs.

Regards,

WILLIAM A. CONRAD,
Director of Contracts.

JULY 23, 2014.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN WATERS, Hansen Engineering Company is one of many small businesses in the South Bay area of Los An-

geles California that is dependent on Boeing contracts to support our business.

Hansen Engineering is a manufacturer of machined aerospace parts and assemblies with 90% of our contracts supporting Boeing aircraft either directly or indirectly through other prime aerospace companies throughout the world. My company staffs approximately 60 employees who live in the South Bay and surrounding areas and depend upon the support of Boeing for the wellbeing of their families. Without the reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank it would have a big impact on the health of our business, its employees and their families.

This is a critical time for manufacturing and small businesses in America. Without the Export-Import Bank, many of Boeing's customers could decide to purchase commercial airplanes produced outside of the United States. Hansen Engineering Company is in strong support of legislation to approve the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Thank you for your support of the Export-Import Banking reauthorization initiative.

Sincerely,

GREG LAY,
*Vice President,
 Hansen Engineering Company.*

[June 17th, 2014]

HOW EX-IM BANK HELPED SAVE MY BUSINESS

(By Gabriel Ojeda, President of Fritz-Pak Corporation)

In 1998, I began the American Dream. I had been working for another company for over 14 years when I decided it was time that I work for myself. I was managing the concrete admixtures division there, and when it came up for sale, I borrowed money from everywhere I could and purchased it. I incorporated my new business, Fritz-Pak Corporation, in the state of Texas, where we are proud to manufacture all of our products to this day.

Concrete admixtures are chemicals used in construction to make handling, placing, and creating high performance concrete easily and efficiently. The most obvious examples are retarders and accelerators. During the summer, concrete will start to set faster due to the heat, so you use a retarder to slow down the setting time. In the winter, concrete will set slower due to the cold, so you use an accelerator to speed it up. Those are just two examples, and in total, we sell about 40 different specialty products.

Back in 1998, the sales distribution was only 15% international. To be honest, I only maintained the international accounts I inherited from the original sale of the business. We were fortunate that concrete construction in the USA started to take off, so I didn't really have a need to expand internationally. I grew the business from less than \$1 million in sales to over \$3 million by 2007. However, the recession that began in '07/'08 hit the construction industry hard.

Data from the US Geological Survey shows that US cement consumption in 2007 was 117 million metric tons (MMT), falling to 99 MMT in 2008 and 72 MMT in 2009. Likewise, our sales fell from over \$3 million to under \$2 million. Concrete construction in the US was deteriorating rapidly, along with our profits, sales, and our workforce. After a particularly hard round of layoffs in 2009, we were in complete survival mode, and I was beginning to consider selling the company.

With the American construction market failing, my son came to me with the idea to start promoting our products overseas to compensate for the loss in revenue. Expanding internationally had always appealed to us, but trying to come up with a cost effi-

cient and safe method for selling our products in other countries during the worst recession in our lifetime seemed like a pipe dream. How can we sell \$50,000 worth of goods to customers half way around the world we've never even met? How can we increase our payment cycle from 30 days to 60 days when we are struggling just to make payroll every month?

However, after speaking with our bankers at Comerica, we were put in touch with Export-Import Bank. With the help of Ex-Im, we were able to insure our international receivables at minimal cost. With an affordable safety net, we were able to sell more volume with increased terms to compensate for international shipping. During the past 5 years, we've grown our international sales from 15 percent to over 35 percent of our business. Partners in over 30 different countries including Brazil, Russia, India, and Taiwan. Most recently, we exhibited our products at the BAUMA International Trade Fair in Munich, Germany. In addition, our products were used in the construction of the Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia.

So what is Fritz-Pak Corporation today? We're an American manufacturer of the best concrete admixtures in the world, and we sell them as far north as Yellowknife, Canada and as far south as Wellington, New Zealand. We may be small, but we think big. In an age where everything seems to be made some place else, we're thriving here in the USA. And it is in no small part due to the services provided by Ex-Im Bank.

BOYLE ENERGY SERVICES &
 TECHNOLOGY, INC.,
Manchester, NH, July 22, 2014.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MRS. WATERS, Ma'am, BES&T needs every effort you and your team can expend to help with the Re-Authorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

You see we are at a great moment in time. Our company, through our exporting, has invented a technology and been awarded US Patents for that technology which dramatically reduces the cost of commissioning energy facilities being built anywhere in the world. In fact we have recently been awarded an Innovation in Energy Award by the Coalition for Global Leadership for this technology. We are about to break through from being a small business to a midsize company working globally. Our revenues are going up dramatically by our ability to export our unique services, engineering and field equipment that helps our clients save millions of dollars.

I have a small line of credit from the Bank of America. I would not be able to support bid bonds and other financial work on the project without EXIM support. At present BOA does not have a means of securing the collateral against our credit while it is in foreign countries, nor does it support financing foreign receivables without EXIM. It is my experience that most US domestic banks behave the same way. While it might be possible to search for a new bank we do not have the resources, time, nor network to re-qualify a bank with what we do. It would be disastrous to us. BOA has taken 10 years to understand our business.

Since undertaking our R&D program in 2003-2008 we have gone from 4 million in revenue in 2003 to nearly 30 million now. We have gone from 10 employees to nearly 50. But ma'am these are not minimum wage jobs. We pay the top salaries in the world for what our people do. We pay 100 percent blue cross blue shield health insurance, 401K, life insurance etc. I have high school graduates who are considered by the energy industry as

the best people in the world at what they do making more than \$150,000 per year. BES&T is poised to triple in size again. Additionally we gave over \$150,000 to charity this year in celebration of our 20th anniversary as a company. We feel it is our civic duty to help those in need as we excel around the world.

We represent what America does best. We innovate through entrepreneurialism. We take that innovation and we run with it all over the world and here in the US. We hire our friends and neighbors who buy homes and cars and send their kids to college. We promote good will in the countries we work and make friends around the world.

I grew up on welfare in Massachusetts, needed school lunches to get through the day and chose to go into the Navy as an enlisted Boiler Technician for 6 years. At every turn I have leveraged the support of the United States and the states in which I lived to create a positive American life for me and for others. Our business is a direct result of the training I got during my enlistment. Now we rely on the EXIM bank for help while we push forward once more. I feel an incredible sense of pride and patriotism that the Export Import Bank of the United States stands with me and my employees. Its one of the great tools for small business in the country.

Several years ago I had the privilege to meet Chairman Hochberg at an outreach meeting hosted by Senator Shaheen of New Hampshire. Since then I have been invited by the Chairman to voice my opinion to him and the board of directors on a wide variety of subjects relating to the banks support of small business. What I can tell you is this, from the top office of the Chairman to the people who work for the bank. EXIM bank is committed to working and improving services for small businesses. I have been witness to countless improvements on behalf of small companies and the Chairman listens to the small business community and so does the board. They are committed to working with us, and it shows.

Mrs. Waters if there were a better, or cheaper way we would have done it. Small businesses always look for that edge. Right now our work with EXIM is highly valuable to our global growth. We work in 17 countries tonight. American women, men and equipment. We rely on EXIM for credit insurance and for our line of credit with BOA. We have never defaulted nor had a claim. We pay heavy fees and costs for this privilege. EXIM is a partner for us in our success.

I would ask you to convince the Chairman that this platform will hurt us, badly. I buy millions of dollars of equipment year on year to help with our exporting. We buy from vendors in Texas, and Tennessee, and California. All of these people would be hurt as well.

This is not a fight we should be undertaking at this time in our recovery. BES&T will continue to add jobs, and pay our taxes on the profits we incur. We will take care of our people and our neighbors. We will honor your trust and support.

If I may of any assistance to either you or Chairman Hensarling in this matter please call upon me at once.

Please re-authorize the EXIM bank its good for America, and BES&T.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL P. BOYLE,
President/CEO.

GRAYCE UYEHARA

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to remember a stalwart leader in the Japanese

American community, Grayce Uyehara, who passed away recently on June 22nd.

Grayce was a leading force in organizing and drawing attention to the Redress campaign—with her well-known Action Alerts and grassroots mobilization efforts—during her tenure as the executive director of Japanese American Citizens League's Legislative Education Committee.

Her commitment to the Japanese American community, as well as this country more broadly, was a stunning display of courage and dedication in seeking justice for injustices throughout.

Her legacy will be one not only of justice and fairness, but of true leadership and perseverance.

HONORING TAKAYUKI KUBOTA

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mrs. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Takayuki Kubota. For seventy-five years Mr. Kubota has been involved in the study and practice of the martial arts and is one of the most widely known and respected Karate masters in the United States.

Born on September 20, 1934 on the Japanese Island of Kyushu, Mr. Kubota's commitment and study of the martial arts began when he was four years old under the guidance and direction of his father. His dedication and daily training led to studying diverse styles of martial arts, which include incorporating the study of meditation and history, as well as the non-combative facets of the arts.

This dedication and passion inspired Mr. Kubota to start the International Karate Association with affiliated schools throughout the globe. Through his association, he teaches his own unique style of karate, known as Gosoko Ryu Karate, and is recognized around the world for its effectiveness.

Over the years, Mr. Kubota has had thousands of students from around the world come to learn and practice his karate style. These students are attracted to his versatility in his ways of teaching. In addition, he has trained a multitude of federal, state, law enforcement personnel, largely on a volunteer basis.

It is with sincere appreciation that I recognize Takayuki Kubota for the value he has contributed to his community through his dedication and teachings of the martial arts.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA'S INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (IFAS) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICES

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Cooperative Ex-

tension Services. IFAS is a highly successful federal-state-county partnership that has helped support Florida's farmers and agricultural industry for more than 100 years.

IFAS Extension was born from two important laws, the Morrill Act of 1862, which created Land-Grant universities throughout the country including the University of Florida, and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, which established the Cooperative Extension Service as a partnership between the Department of Agriculture and Land-Grant universities, jointly administered with state extension agents, and local county officials. In its early history, IFAS Extension was focused on increasing agricultural production and improving the lives of rural residents by tapping the latest information from the world class research being done at the University of Florida and Florida A&M University and converting it into practical knowledge that Floridians could use to improve agricultural techniques and home economics. These core extension services have helped serve millions of Floridians, and today IFAS operates 1,249 buildings, 3,622,462 gross square feet and 27,279 acres with locations in all 67 counties. Thanks to these efforts, the value-added contribution of IFAS Extension add more than \$100 billion to the state economy.

In addition to the core agricultural support programs, IFAS also contributes greatly to the development of Florida's youth through the 4-H program. The 4-H youth development programs began in 1909 with "corn clubs" for young men, which showed Florida's youth how to prepare and plant their fields with hybrid corn seed. Cash prizes were awarded to those who produced the most corn, with additional prizes for youth whose crops out-produced their parents. Two years later, in 1911, tomato clubs were established for young women to plant, harvest and can tomatoes. When the IFAS Extension Service was established in 1915, it took over administration of the clubs, and in 1924, the various clubs were officially recognized as 4-H Clubs. As a former 4-H participant, I can attest to the incredible leadership and educational opportunities that 4-H provides to Florida's youth.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Cooperative Extension Services. Agriculture is a vital component of Florida's history and economic success, and I join Floridians in appreciation of the first-class work and effort that IFAS provides to support our state.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the West Midland Family Center in commemoration of the organization's 40th anniversary.

The West Midland Family Center (WMFC) first opened its doors in 1974. Originally an abandoned school, in 1931, WMFC founder Phyllis Breedlove and several other dedicated community members began the transformation

of what was to become a thriving community center. Founders had a vision for the community of Midland and its families where local citizens both young and old could come to learn, socialize, and participate in recreational activities.

It is this vision that has helped the West Midland Family Center continued to grow and expand throughout the years. By the generosity of multiple donors and foundations, the WMFC has added a 20,500 square foot building for classrooms, an outdoor pool, a playground, baseball diamonds, and a soccer field. These facilities have enriched the lives of thousands of children, adults, and families throughout the area. After the completion of its most recent expansion project, the WMFC now offers licensed childcare, family support, and afterschool programs. It is because of the guidance and support of countless volunteers and generous individuals that the Center continues to fulfill its mission today.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, it is with great honor that I commemorate this 40th anniversary of the West Midland Family Center and congratulate the organization for its many years of success within Midland County. I offer my deepest appreciation to the organization for all it has done and wish it continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. LINDA ESCOBAR

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Escobar for her many contributions to Tejano and Conjunto music.

Linda Escobar is a native of Alice, Texas. She and her father, noted conjunto pioneer Eligio Escobar, created an act that toured nationwide with a group of musicians that included Lucha Villa, Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Cantinflas, Los Relampagos and Freddie Fender.

While still a child in the late 1960s, Ms. Escobar composed and recorded the gold record "Frijolitos Pintos." After the death of her father in 1994, Ms. Escobar collaborated with Japanese accordionist Kenji "El Gato" Katsube, to create an electric mix of Asian/Tex-Mex music. Ms. Escobar was awarded Female Vocalist of the Year at the South Texas Conjunto Association Music Awards in both 2001 and 2003.

To pay tribute to her father and other veterans, Ms. Escobar founded "El Veterano Conjunto Festival," now in its 16th year of existence, which raises funds for the Eligio Escobar Scholarship Fund for talented young conjunto musicians.

In recognition of her distinguished musical career, she was inducted into the Tejano ROOTS Music Hall of Fame as well as the Texas Conjunto Music Hall of Fame. Additionally, she has received numerous other awards and accolades, including a key to the City of Alice.

Known as the First Lady of Conjunto Music, Ms. Escobar has been instrumental in promoting Conjunto Tejano and Tex-Mex music throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Ms. Linda Escobar and her contributions to the Conjunto, Tejano and Tex-Mex genres. Further, I appreciate you joining me in recognizing her contributions to South Texas' cultural heritage.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN A. LEGGIERI FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND TO OUR NATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel John A. Leggieri for his exemplary dedication to duty and his service to the United States Army and to the United States of America. Colonel Leggieri will retire from the Army in December after serving almost half of his 30-year career in Congressional Liaison.

A native of Claverack, New York, Colonel John Leggieri was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through Sienna College's ROTC program. Initially branched into Air Defense Artillery, John led Soldiers in demanding situations—first with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea and then with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He then transitioned to the Quartermaster Corps, where he led Soldiers for the next decade as a logistician in New York, Nebraska, Virginia, and Arkansas.

In 1999, John began the next phase of his career in Congressional Liaison. He initially served as an Army Congressional Fellow for a year, working in a Member's office on Capitol Hill. For the next 14 years he served in positions of increasing responsibility in the critical, fast-paced arena of Congressional Liaison. He worked as Legislative Liaison Officer for the Chief of the Army Reserve and then as Congressional Budget Liaison Officer for the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller), working closely with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. There are few who know more about the Congressional budget process and none respected more. After his initial work with Congress, John was selected as a National Security Fellow and studied for a year at Harvard University's prestigious John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Colonel's next role with Congress was as Chief of Congressional Plans and Strategy for the Army's Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he directed the development of long-range Army wide legislative goals and objectives to help clearly communicate the Army's multi-billion dollar annual budget requests. Finally, Colonel Leggieri served as the Chief of Congressional Budget Liaison, where for the last three years he ensured the Army's budget positions were extremely well represented and articulated to the Congressional Appropriations Committees. John's tenure as the Chief of Congressional Budget Liaison coincided with a particularly challenging fiscal period for the Department of the Defense. Under his leadership, the Army's Congressional Budget Liaison Office navigated dramatically declining de-

fense budgets as operations in Iraq and Afghanistan drew down and sequestration was implemented. In spite of these challenges, John was instrumental in ensuring that Congress was informed of the importance of key programs for the future of the Army.

In his many years in the liaison role, John helped showcase the Army's great accomplishments by leading countless high profile Congressional delegations to locations around the world, including Afghanistan, Bosnia, Egypt, Iraq, Kosovo, and innumerable other places where dedicated Americans serve our nation. These fact finding missions have been instrumental in improving the United States' foreign and defense policy.

Colonel Leggieri's leadership throughout his career positively impacted his Soldiers, peers, and superiors. His integrity, his exceptional work, and his sense of service are leaving our world improved and they have always served as an example for those he has commanded. To quote Charles Dickens, Colonel Leggieri is, "as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending Colonel John Leggieri for over three decades of service to his country. We wish John, his wife Rebecca, herself a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and now Professional Staff Member on the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and their two children, Olivia and Gabriel, all the best.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT RICHARD R. ONSGARD

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Richard R. Onsgard, Command Chief Sergeant for the 146th Airlift Wing for the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, on the special occasion of his retirement from a distinguished and exemplary career.

Chief Onsgard has had a remarkable and admirable career enlisting in the Air National Guard in 1972, serving the Los Angeles Fire Department for 24 years and rising to the rank of Engineer, and being selected in 1996 as First Sergeant of the 115th Airlift Squadron. Answering his country's call of duty, Chief Onsgard was activated for Operation Noble Eagle and assigned to a Marine Expeditionary Force. In addition to serving on active duty for both Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Chief Onsgard has supported missions for the National Guard Bureau in many areas including logistics and planning.

As the senior ranking enlisted member of the 146th Airlift Wing, Chief Onsgard has served as the Command Chief and the principal advisor to the wing commander on areas pertaining to the welfare, health, morale, progress, and efficient utilization of all the enlisted members assigned to the wing. In addition to his honorable service, Chief Onsgard has served as the representative to the wing commander and the enlisted force on committees, councils, boards, and has represented the enlisted force at military and civilian functions.

His work has earned him many accolades and awards that mirror his personal vigor and professional work ethic. These honors include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, which are but a few of the decorations that showcase his long career path of achievements.

Chief Onsgard's lifetime career of servant leadership and his many accomplishments are indicative of his unwavering commitment and dedication to his country and community. As this chapter in his career comes to an end, I want to express my sincere appreciation for Chief Onsgard's years of honorable and selfless service that greatly contributed to the success of the United States Air National Guard's mission.

For these reasons, I commend Chief Master Sergeant Richard Onsgard and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN EDITH GREEN TO ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous contributions of our former colleague, Edith Starrett Green, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1955–1974, representing Oregon's 3rd District. During her tenure in the House, Mrs. Green was one of the nation's leading advocates for expanding access to higher education for all Americans and ensuring equal pay and opportunities for women and minorities.

Among her many accomplishments, Mrs. Green authored two landmark pieces of legislation that continue to shape the field of post-secondary education, including the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, which authorized the use of Federal funds to expand and improve classrooms, libraries, and laboratories on college and university campuses. She also sponsored the Higher Education Act of 1965, which for the first time authorized Federal financial assistance for undergraduate students. President Lyndon Johnson referred to the Higher Education Facilities Act as "the greatest step forward in the field since the passage of the Land-Grant Act of 1862." Her commitment and success earned Mrs. Green the monikers "the Mother of Higher Education" and "Mrs. Education."

Mrs. Green, a native of South Dakota, also was concerned with the issues of equal opportunity and equal pay for women and minorities and advanced pioneering legislation addressing both issues. She was appointed to President John F. Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women and chaired its Civil and Political Rights Committee in the early 1960s. She was the author of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, which she helped push across the finish line eight years after first introducing it. She followed that by winning support for her amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1965 to expand the scope of the bill to include training opportunities for urban youth.

Mrs. Green was known as a shrewd legislator, once called a "bare-knuckle fighter" by one Congressional observer, and those skills helped her advance this and other issues close to her heart. She spent much of her public life working to eliminate the social and legal obstacles preventing women from achieving equality in post-secondary education.

Perhaps most notably, Mrs. Green was one of several members to introduce legislation prohibiting federally-funded colleges and universities from discriminating against women after the idea was born out of seven days of hearings she held on the topic in her role as Chairman of the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Higher Education. "If you can make every young girl know that there's no ceiling of expectations, that there is not height to which that young girl cannot go, she'll aspire to that," Mrs. Green said in a 1978 interview. Ultimately, she collaborated with fellow Representative Patsy Mink, of Hawaii, and Senator Birch Bayh, of Indiana, on the groundbreaking Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which opened new academic and athletic opportunities for women and has had a transformative effect on future generations of girls and women across America. Upon her retirement in December 1974, former New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan remarked that "she presided over the enactment of the most important education legislation in the history of the Republic, and I hope someone would say so." Mrs. Green returned to Oregon, where she taught college government classes and passed away in April 1987.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said before and surely deserves repeating: The passionate and persistent efforts of Congresswoman Edith Green have forever transformed our modern classrooms, athletic fields, and employment settings for the better, and she deserves our sincere respect and gratitude. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous record of accomplishment compiled by our former colleague, Edith Starrett Green, and in thanking her family for their sacrifice and support of her career, which continues to help advance opportunities for so many others.

RECOGNIZING THE PAXTON LADY CATS AS CLASS 1A BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS AND HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF COACH RANDY INFINGER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First Congressional District of Florida's Paxton School girls basketball team for winning the Class 1A Basketball State Championship and to honor the life of Coach Randy Infinger.

The Paxton Lady Cats ended a spectacular season with a record of 26–3 to clinch this year's state championship. The final game was played against Chipley High School on February 20, 2014, in Lakeland, Florida, with the Lady Cats claiming victory with a score of

39–34. Many of the exceptional plays leading up to the victory occurred in the final quarter of this tightly contested championship game. Senior Emily Murray scored a game-high 20 points on the strength of four 3-pointers, including a game-winning 3 pointer with just 38 seconds left on the clock. With their victory, the Lady Cats secured Paxton's fifth girls basketball state championship, moving them into fifth place on the all-time Florida girls basketball championship list. Their latest state championship marks another proud moment in the sports history of Northwest Florida high school basketball.

Sadly, on February 23, 2014, four days after their extraordinary victory, the Paxton Lady Cats and the entire Paxton community were struck by tragedy when long-time Paxton Assistant Coach Randy Infinger passed away. Throughout his dedicated 25-year career at Paxton School, Mr. Infinger coached several teams and touched the hearts of countless students and teachers. His contributions to Northwest Florida and Paxton School were truly exceptional, and his legacy will not be forgotten.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the citizens of Northwest Florida, I would like to honor and remember Coach Randy Infinger and congratulate players Katie Sebastian (#3), Quinn Williams (#4), Cortni McKee (#5), Faith Elmore (#11), Emily Murray (#12), Sidney Beck (#14), Genesis Long (#15), Lenora Dixon (#21), Allison Carley (#22), Annie Myles (#23), Bethany Neale (#24), Cassidy Brazile (#25), and Kristen Corbett (#45); Head Coach, Steve Williams; Assistant Coach, Kim Corbett; Bookkeeper, Laurie Gilbert; Statistician, Connor Williams; Principal, Beth Tucker; Assistant Principal, Mitch Jackson; and Athletic Director, Steve Williams for their extraordinary victory. My wife Vicki joins me in offering our best wishes to Paxton School and its talented athletes and coaches for their continued academic and athletic success, as well as our prayers and most sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Infinger and the entire Paxton community for their tremendous loss.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK
REAUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank because helping Arizona businesses expand their manufacturing capacity and exporting ability creates jobs and grows our economy.

The Export-Import Bank fills gaps in private financing, stepping up where the private sector can't or won't.

Last year, Export-Import Bank Chairman Fred Hochberg visited my district to help small and growing businesses increase their global exports right from our own backyard. From Fiscal Year 2007 to Fiscal Year 2014 the agency supported \$176 million in exports from AZ–09 companies.

One of those companies, MarTek Inc. of Tempe, Arizona, was reluctant to sell their semiconductor equipment to customers in

Asia. They were concerned that once the equipment left their building, there was no guarantee they would get paid.

Because of the large price associated with the equipment, their customers were unwilling to pay for the equipment in advance with the same fears that the equipment would not ship or be a quality product.

The Export-Import Bank offered MarTek a solution. The bank issued an insurance policy so MarTek could make sales and have some guarantee they would be paid. Thanks to the Export-Import Bank MarTek now exports to companies in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Another business in my district that benefits from the Export-Import Bank is Ulthera, Inc. of Mesa, Arizona, which manufactures medical devices. Thanks to the Export-Import Bank Ulthera was able to access additional debt financing at a critical point in their business. It's now one of the fastest growing companies in Arizona with sales in over 30 countries outside the U.S.

As we all know, the Export-Import Bank's current charter is set to expire at the end of September. A lapse in authorization would threaten the competitiveness of these and many other Arizona businesses. I am a co-sponsor of legislation to extend the Export-Import Bank's authorization and will continue to work to reauthorize this important investment in American jobs.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF CARL COAN, MS, MPH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carl Coan on the end of his tenure as president and CEO of Los Angeles' Eisner Pediatric & Family Medical Center (EPFMC).

In his role as president and CEO since 1990, Mr. Coan has played a major role in expanding the medical center on every front. Annual patient visits have increased from 17,000 to 114,000. Annual operating revenue has gone from \$1.7 million to \$24 million. Three capital campaigns have raised a combined \$17.8 million. The EPFMC has expanded to nine locations, and has been designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center. Meanwhile, its number of services has ballooned to encompass such new areas as family health, round-the-clock hospital care, early child development, behavioral health, speech and occupational therapy, pharmacy, and case management. It has also come to feature such innovative care models as centering pregnancy prenatal care, a foster grandparent program, and an adolescent medicine clinic.

Mr. Coan has also facilitated a partnership between the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine of USC and the California Hospital Medical Center to establish and oversee the USC-Eisner Family Medicine Center at California Hospital, which serves as the main training site for the California Hospital Medical Center's Family Medicine Residency program.

Outside of EPFMC, Mr. Coan is a prominent leader in the local health community. He is the founder and past president of the Health Care

L.A. IPA and the Southside Coalition of Community Health Centers, a current board member of the California Primary Care Association, and a former board member for the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County and L.A. Care Health Plan.

Mr. Coan also meets regularly with government officials to speak about issues important to the EPFMC and other community health centers. I have personally met with him many times, and he has participated in my annual community health center roundtables alongside other health care providers from my district. I can attest that he is an excellent advocate for the vital role that community clinics and health centers play in our health care system. It is fitting that he received the California Primary Care Association's 2013 Clinical Legacy Award for his hard work in increasing awareness of the importance of these facilities.

Mr. Speaker, as Carl Coan leaves his position at the helm of EPFMC, I want to recognize his long and distinguished career of providing excellent and wide-ranging medical care to the people of Los Angeles. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the fine work he has done to make Los Angeles a healthier and happier place to live, and to wish him the very best as he moves on to new challenges.

DAN BERNSTEIN

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dan Bernstein, a columnist for The Press-Enterprise in the Inland Empire who recently retired.

Dan began his career thirty-eight years ago in 1976, and has covered business, government, and politics for our community. His column has informed, enlightened, and entertained his readers for decades.

His wife, who he calls his "unofficial editor-in-chief," pushed him to write a column in his voice, with his point of view. This established a connection and a bond with his readers that lasted for years, and I'm sure many in Riverside County would agree with me that his retirement from The Press-Enterprise creates a void—as his voice informatively and candidly filled the homes of the Inland Empire.

We will surely miss Mr. Bernstein and I congratulate his long-standing career.

I wish him the best of luck in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to President Obama's visit to my district, I regrettably missed votes on July 28, 2014, July 29, 2014, and July 30, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 455, "yes" on rollcall 456, "yes" on rollcall 457, "no" on rollcall 458, "no" on rollcall 459, "yes" on rollcall 460, "yes" on rollcall 461, "yes" on rollcall 462, "no" on rollcall 463, "yes" on rollcall 464,

"no" on rollcall 465, "no" on rollcall 466, "yes" on rollcall 467.

HONORING NICHOLAS COCOVES

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas Cocoves, who has recently achieved distinction as an Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle Scout, one must design and complete a service project that will benefit their surrounding community. For Nicholas's project, he honored American veterans by installing a bench, flagpole, and plaque in front of the Historic Cray House in downtown Stuart, Florida. Not only will the site serve as a beautiful welcome feature for visitors, it will enhance our community by serving as a constant symbol of reverence and gratitude for those who sacrificed their lives for our country.

The site will be dedicated to veterans who are Purple Heart recipients and revelation of the site will take place on August 6, the day before National Purple Heart Day. Creating the veterans site was also a part of Nicholas's project to make Martin County a Purple Heart county and Stuart a Purple Heart city.

I commend Nicholas for his dedication and commitment to obtaining this prestigious rank and I applaud him for his leadership and community service.

COMMENDING PINELLAS COUNTY JOB CORPS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, Job Corps is the largest career technical training and education program for low-income students ages 16 through 24. There are five centers in Florida—Pinellas County, Jacksonville, Miami, Gainesville, and Homestead.

In Florida, approximately 27,000 students are trained annually. The contributions of Job Corps to these young men and women, the future of this community, cannot be overstated.

That is the essence of this country—men and women who did not believe there was a ceiling on their capacity to achieve greatness; men and women who reached higher, and wanted to do better.

Students who work to graduate from Job Corps are emulating and realizing those distinctly American values.

We have fallen on hard times—a lot of Americans are out of work, and people in all walks of life are feeling the impacts of an economy still on the rebound.

It is men and women like the graduates of Job Corps who will help bring this country back to greatness and economic prosperity. We are a nation of doers, and we are at our best when we are creating things and ideas.

Hard work is a virtue that no one can take from anyone else. Each day, you decide what to give; you decide how hard you will work, how hard you will try.

"Pull yourself up by your bootstraps" is a phrase often used with respect to doing a job.

It is not often so simple. To pull yourself up, you must be armed with the skills to do so; armed with the skills to succeed.

By coming here, to the Job Corps, each and every one of those young men and women chose to get those skills. That in and of itself is commendable—they made the choice to work to better themselves. That choice sets Job Corps graduates apart, and they are all extraordinary.

Today, I want to express its appreciation to the Pinellas County Center for their outstanding service in improving the lives of youth.

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION— CAMPUS ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFETY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is time to further address the epidemic of sexual assaults at our nation's college and university campuses. During some of the most formative years of their lives, students across the country should not have to live in fear of being stalked or abused. That is why a bipartisan group have come together to introduce the Campus Accountability and Safety Act that will address ambiguities in the law, strengthen protections and enforcement, and improve reporting by universities.

The changes included in the recent Violence Against Women Act reauthorization from the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act are starting to go into effect but more must be done. Rape is a horrific crime that exacts a physical and psychological toll on survivors. Women trying to get an education should not have to worry that they might also be victimized by predators on their campuses. This new legislation establishes new campus resources such as Confidential Advisors who will serve as a confidential resource and help coordinate support services; ensures specialized training and minimum standards for on-campus personnel who oversee sexual assault cases; creates new annual standardized, anonymous surveys that will be published online to help high school students and their parents make informed choices when comparing universities; requires a uniform process for campus disciplinary proceedings; no longer allows athletic departments or other subgroups to handle sexual violence complaints separately; and establishes penalties if schools do not comply with the legislation.

I applaud the work of our colleagues in the Senate on their comprehensive and bipartisan bill, and thank my colleagues, Reps. PATRICK MEEHAN, TED POE, CHERI BUSTOS, GWEN MOORE, SUZANNE BONAMICI, SUSAN BROOKS, RENEE ELLMERS, LYNN JENKINS, SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, KRISTI NOEM, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, TOM REED, ROBERT SCOTT, LOIS FRANKEL, DAVID JOYCE, ANN KUSTER, and GARY PETERS, for teaming up on this legislation. I am hopeful that the House will take up this effort in tandem with the Senate so that we can put a bill on the President's desk.

REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 935.

This debate is not one about the usefulness of pesticide use in modern society—which, clearly, pesticides have found such a role. Whether to control nuisance species, such as mosquitoes or aquatic invasive species, or to assist in the production of reliable agricultural harvests, pesticides have proven useful in sustaining the American livelihood.

At the same time, we must remember that modern pesticides can be highly toxic chemicals that need to be thoroughly studied and used with great care to limit the potential impacts to human health and the environment. It was only a few decades ago that we learned the lessons of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, and the devastation to the natural environment caused by the use of DDT.

Yet, even today, the U.S. Geological Survey has consistently found the presence of pesticides and pesticide residues in our nation's lakes, rivers, and streams, including many that serve as drinking water sources for local communities. Contrary to statements made on Monday, these are not simply the legacy contaminants of decades-old pesticides, but also modern pesticides, such as those linked to bee-colony collapse.

So, common-sense should dictate that we approach the issue of pesticide use in or near our rivers, lakes, and streams with great caution, and with an even greater understanding of the cumulative and lasting impacts of pesticides on human health and water quality.

Unfortunately, H.R. 935 would abandon any caution related to pesticide use in or near our nation's waters, and allow potential polluters to return to the regulatory shadows.

Mr. Speaker, proponents of H.R. 935 argue that the protections of the Clean Water Act are simply duplicative of the requirements of FIFRA, and are unnecessary to protect local waters from pesticide contamination.

These statements are simply not supported by the facts.

As many of my colleagues noted during Monday's debate on this bill, these two statutes, although complimentary with one another, have entirely different focuses.

FIFRA is intended to address the safety and effectiveness of pesticides on a national scale, preventing unreasonable adverse effects on human health and the environment through uniform labels indicating approved uses and restrictions.

However, the Clean Water Act is focused on restoring and maintaining the integrity of the nation's waters, with a primary focus on the protection of local water quality.

It is simply incorrect to say that applying a FIFRA-approved pesticide in accordance with its labeling requirement is a surrogate for protecting local water quality.

Similarly, contrary to statements made during Monday's debate, FIFRA's risk assess-

ment process for individual pesticides is no substitute for the Clean Water Act's focus on local water quality.

First, the FIFRA labeling process for a vast majority of pesticides do not address off-site, non-target, and sub-lethal effects of pesticide drift that can grow stronger over time.

Second, the EPA risk registration process only considers the effect of the active ingredients in a pesticide, and does not consider the synergy of multiple ingredients in a pesticide formulation, or between multiple pesticides in the environment. Yet, many of the unregulated, inactive ingredients in pesticides have significant toxic effects in their own right.

Third, the FIFRA re-registration process is a lengthy and ongoing process with outstanding and missing health and environmental data associated with pesticide reviews. As a result, EPA's assessment process has been routinely criticized as failing to fully assess the short- and long-term impacts of pesticides on human health, particularly on children, and on the environment.

Fourth, under FIFRA, EPA does not track pesticide poisonings, including short-term and long-term adverse effects, as pointed out recently by the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

Finally, EPA presumes, under FIFRA, that if a pesticide is applied according to its label, there will not be any unintentional pesticide exposure to water—therefore, the risk assessment process does not evaluate the impact of terrestrial pesticides on water quality, despite the fact that these pesticides often are detected in waters—presumably through drift or contaminated runoff.

Mr. Speaker, proponents of H.R. 935 also argue that the costs of implementing the Clean Water Act permitting requirements have been excessive. However, I have yet to see one documented case where a state, a mosquito control district, or a pesticide applicator has incurred significant increased costs from complying with the Clean Water Act for pesticide applications.

This administration worked hand-in-hand with these groups to ensure that implementation of the Clean Water Act was consistent with current practices, and was not going to be costly or burdensome. If we are going to have a debate on the merits of this issue, it is incumbent upon the proponents of H.R. 935 to show proof of any perceived burden—but as of yet, no such proof has been provided.

As noted by my colleagues on Monday, there is no substantive reason why this legislation is necessary, other than to limit the scope of Clean Water Act protections over a source of known pollutants that are causing water quality impairment in this nation.

There is no evidence of an emergency. There is no evidence of any significant regulatory burden. And there is no evidence of any substantial increase in compliance costs.

In my view, the proponents have made no argument why this legislation is necessary, other than that the groups who want to restore their regulatory anonymity have asked for it.

We need to ensure that potential sources of water pollution continue to be brought out of the shadows, which would be accomplished by defeating H.R. 935.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 935.

RICHARD TEGLEY

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I'm deeply saddened to have learned that Richard Tegley, a force in our community, passed away earlier this month.

Richard lived a remarkable life—first bravely serving his country in the Air Force for 22 years, then on to an illustrious career as a real estate broker in the Inland Empire, where he quickly became a leader in the community. For decades, Richard was an advocate for the people of Moreno Valley and Riverside, whom he cared so deeply for.

He was a trusted friend who helped ensure that I would be able to stand here in the House today. I always knew that I could turn to him to get a perspective on the issues facing our community, and I will miss his dedication and passion for others.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE WORLD
WAR II MERRILL'S MARAUDERS**
HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the World War II Merrill's Marauders unit for their accomplishments in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. The 70th anniversary of the disbandment of this courageous and noble unit is on August 10, 2014.

In 1943, almost 3,000 U.S. Army volunteers from the jungles of Panama and Trinidad, Guadalcanal, New Guinea, New Georgia and the United States, landed in Bombay, India on October 31, 1943. On January 1, 1944, the unit was officially designated as the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional, code-named "Galahad," and later nicknamed Merrill's Marauders by the press after their commander, Gen. Frank D. Merrill. They were the first American ground troops to fight the Japanese in Asia.

Merrill's Marauders trained with Britain's Major General Orde Wingate's Chindits before beginning their history-making march in the China-Burma-India Theater, the "forgotten" WWII Theater. With only what they could carry on their backs or pack on mules, Merrill's Marauders walked farther, almost 1,000 miles, than any other WWII fighting force.

Trudging behind enemy lines up the foothills of the Himalayas and into the jungles of northern Burma, Merrill's Marauders succeeded in capturing the only all-weather airstrip at Myitkyina on May 17, 1944. This feat obliterated Japan's control of the sky and enabled the Allies to begin flying supplies into Burma so the Ledo and Burma roads could be connected to open up a crucial pathway into China. Although vastly outnumbered, Merrill's Marauders then went on to defeat the Japanese 18th Imperial Division in five major battles and thirty minor engagements.

The volunteers of this short-lived mission were considered "expendable" since a plan existed to get them into, but not out of, Burma.

The unit was expected to have a casualty rate of more than 85 percent. Jungle diseases ravaged their numbers so only about 300 of the approximately 1,300 remaining Merrill's Marauders were still fit for combat when they reached their objective. They later went on to join replacements who continued to fight in Burma as the 475th Infantry, which became part of the Mars Task Force.

For their accomplishments in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations, the Merrill's Marauders unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. They also have the extremely rare distinction of every member of the unit receiving the Bronze Star Medal. There were also six Distinguished Service Crosses, four Legions of Merit and forty-four Silver Star Medals awarded. Twenty-five Merrill's Marauders have been inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

The legacy of the Merrill's Marauders continues to be honored today by members of the 75th Ranger Regiment, headquartered at Fort Benning, Georgia, who wear the Marauder patch as their crest. Camp Frank D. Merrill, where the mountain phase of today's vigorous Army Ranger training takes place in north Georgia, is named in honor of the unit's commanding general.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the Merrill's Marauders for their steadfast courage and commitment to serving our country during World War II. The Merrill's Marauders made significant contributions in safeguarding our liberties as Americans seventy years ago and we honor their outstanding valor and patriotic service that helped make America the great nation it is today.

**CELEBRATING FLORENCE-FIRE-
STONE/WALNUT PARK CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE'S SEVENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY**
HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Florence-Firestone/Walnut Park Chamber of Commerce (FFWPCC) on its seventy-fifth anniversary. Ever since its incorporation in 1939, the Chamber has provided a forum for local merchants, business and property owners, professionals, residents, lenders, and teachers to work together in making the Florence-Firestone community a better place to do business. Since 2006, the Chamber has served the Walnut Park business community as well.

The Chamber was severely shaken by the 1992 Los Angeles riots, but it was kept afloat by Community Development Commission (CDC) funding secured by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, who was then the Supervisor for Los Angeles County's Second District. This CDC funding has continued under current Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. The Chamber has also benefited from funding under a partnership with the County's First District and its Supervisor, Gloria Molina.

At present, the Chamber gets funding from the Community Development Block Grant program. With this funding, the Chamber supports business development through technical as-

sistance, workshops, seminars, and individual consultations.

The Chamber also uses its community newsletter to spread word about business assistance programs, and to advocate on behalf of the businesses in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park Region. Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park are two of the local communities that have faced the most challenges during the recent recession, with unemployment rates exceeding 20 percent. The FFWPCC has aggressively confronted these challenges by seeking and identifying opportunities to enable the creation of new employment opportunities.

To this day, the FFWPCC serves its members by promoting their businesses' products and services and by protecting their interests at all levels of government. This was particularly evident in the Chamber's recent collaboration with Los Angeles County Supervisors and business and property owners to beautify the streetscapes in the business corridor linking the Florence-Firestone area to Walnut Park. The streetscape improvements have made the shopping community much more inviting, and have helped community members and visitors take pride in their walkable and sustainable community.

After this streetscape project was finished last year, the Chamber continued to tackle new challenges. It is now working on another beautification project in Walnut Park, with the help of Los Angeles County Supervisors. The Chamber has also brought new business opportunities to Walnut Park by organizing an annual Summer Fest in the community. Last year's event attracted over 50,000 people, and this year's attendance is expected to be even higher.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of its seventy-five years of faithful and diligent support of local businesses, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the Florence-Firestone/Walnut Park Chamber of Commerce for making Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park better places to work and live, and in wishing the Chamber many more years of success.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE LAKE
DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL FIGHTING
FALCONS 50TH SEASON**
HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lake Dallas High School who will be celebrating their 50th football season this year. The Fighting Falcons have played 494 games in their illustrious time with a winning record of 260–226–8. They have appeared in the playoffs 18 times throughout their victorious history.

I am proud to say that in 2002, Lake Dallas introduced a new football facility in Corinth that now holds 6,000 spectators. In 2008, Lake Dallas and Sherman scored 115 points in one game to tie a state record.

Impressively, the Fighting Falcons have also had notable college and NFL players. These include Dusty Dvoracek, James Franklin, Justin Hill, Graysen Schantz, Chase Baine, Daryl Williams, Dontonio Jordan, and Dalyn Williams.

On behalf of the 26th Congressional District, I offer my sincere congratulations to the Lake Dallas High School Fighting Falcons on their 50 years of teamwork, success and greatness. I wish them a bright future.

RECOGNIZING MILLER'S HEALTH SYSTEMS 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate a local small business for 50 years of great service to Hoosiers all over Indiana. Miller's Health Systems is known throughout the state of Indiana for providing excellent services in: assisted living, rehabilitation, and nursing home care.

The business started by Wallace and Connie Miller in 1964 as Miller's Merry Manor nursing home on the outskirts of Warsaw. After the company was taken over by their son V. Richard Miller, the company has expanded to over 30 Miller's Merry Manors and 10 senior living facilities. With the multitude of facilities Miller's Health Systems has today, they have grown to over 3,000 employees. Their mission statement speaks to the importance of the Miller's Health Systems employees enjoying the work they do and helping them grow. The company has helped this happen by having Miller's Merry Manor 100 percent employee-owned. The Miller's commitment to service and their core principles of passion, integrity, stewardship, growth, and adaptation have helped Miller's Health Systems withstand the test of time.

As the Representative for the many employees and facilities for Miller's Health Systems it is with great honor I recognize the 50th anniversary of this great business. With the leadership of the Miller family and the passion of their employees, I have no doubt there will be many more celebrations to come. On behalf of Indiana's Second District, I am proud to recognize the last 50 years of Miller's Health Systems and wish them many more.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. DesJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 2014, I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall No. 468 due to a personal health matter.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall No. 468, H. Res. 676, to provide for the authority to initiate litigation for actions by the President or other executive branch officials inconsistent with their duties under the Constitution of the United States.

21ST CENTURY ENDANGERED SPECIES TRANSPARENCY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4315) to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes:

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I oppose H.R. 4315, the so-called "Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act," which is an overt assault on the Endangered Species Act designed to weaken its protections and guarantee the likelihood of extinction for wildlife, plants, and fish.

The Endangered Species Act is one of the Nation's most important environmental laws. Signed into law by President Richard Nixon over forty years ago, the Endangered Species Act continues to serve as an effective tool for protecting our wildlife, plants, and fish from the brink of extinction.

To ensure enforcement of the Endangered Species Act, Congress empowered citizens to bring enforcement actions to hold parties accountable for violating the law or to compel the government to protect endangered species. Importantly, the law does not provide for rewards of damages for the citizen bringing the suit. Rather, the Endangered Species Act allows for courts to award reasonable attorneys' fees to parties that substantially prevail on the merits.

Congress has long recognized the importance of encouraging citizens to bring meritorious claims under the Endangered Species Act that they would otherwise abandon due to the financial costs of hiring competent counsel. Many other federal statutes contain similar enforcement mechanisms that encourage citizens to act as a private attorney general.

The Supreme Court has likewise observed in numerous contexts that if private citizens are to enforce laws against "those who violate the Nation's fundamental laws are not to proceed with impunity, then citizens must have the opportunity to recover what it costs them to vindicate these rights in court."

Contrary to the stated goal of H.R. 4315 to "standardize the awarding of attorneys' fees to prevailing parties against the federal government," this legislation is a thinly-disguised effort to prohibit litigation by citizens and public-interest groups.

By eliminating the possibility of reasonable attorneys' fees, this bill creates yet another hurdle that will make it more difficult to find competent legal representation to enforce complex environmental laws.

Reasonable attorneys' fees are particularly appropriate for complex and highly specialized adjudications involving environmental law. Environmental groups are almost uniformly non-profit organizations. Many file lawsuits for injunctive relief to enforce laws and protect the public health. But as a result of this bill, many of these organizations will be deterred from bringing such actions if they cannot recover attorneys' fees.

For these reasons, a broad coalition of interest groups—including Alliance for Justice, Public Citizen, American Association for Justice, Sierra Club, and dozens of other environmental, civil rights, and civil liberties organizations—oppose H.R. 4315.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE KEVIN BURNHAM OF THE SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, the Springfield, Massachusetts, Police Department said farewell to their longest serving officer when Kevin Burnham retired after 43 years and 2 months on the job. A highly respected professional, a popular colleague, and a dear friend to everyone on the force, Kevin relinquished his senior officer badge last week to Ruben Boerro following a time-honored tradition. For the first time since July of 1971, Detective Burnham would not be patrolling the streets of the city he loves.

Ask anyone in the department who their favorite co-worker was, and the reply would likely be Kevin Burnham. They admired his dedication, strength and courage. They enjoyed his sense of humor and the laughter that seemed to follow him everywhere. And his loyalty was unquestioned. At the end of the day, Kevin looked upon the Springfield Police Department as a band of brothers and sisters. To him, the force was a family working together to make our city a better place to live, work and raise our children.

From his early days as a rookie, it was obvious that Kevin was born to be a cop. He had the streets smarts necessary to be effective in law enforcement, but he also had compassion. Those two qualities were the reasons his career was so successful. Whether it was becoming one of the first detectives to work on the narcotics bureau, his service in both the uniform division and the crime prevention bureau, or the responsibility that came with the job of evidence officer, Kevin performed each task exceptionally. He was honest and trustworthy, and his fellow officers knew he had their back.

Being a police officer always comes with risks. And two years ago, one of his closest friends, Officer Kevin Ambrose, was killed in the line of duty. To Kevin Burnham, it was the lowest of low points. But with his trademark integrity and character, he led the funeral procession for his fallen friend along with nearly one thousand law enforcement officials from across the country. He helped turn a sad day into a touching tribute to a lost comrade. That's the kind of person he is.

Kevin and Barbara Burnham have been great friends of mine for many years. They are good people and great fun. As Kevin begins his long overdue retirement, I want to wish him nothing but the very best. And on behalf of the United States of America, it gives me personal satisfaction to congratulate him on an extraordinary career serving and protecting the citizens of Springfield. Well done Detective Burnham.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3230,
PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Conference Report on H.R. 3230, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. I also want to commend Chairman SANDERS, Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member BURR, and Ranking Member MICHAUD for their work on crafting a bipartisan bill that not only provides for our veterans but addresses many of the systemic problems within the Veteran Health Administration.

The final conference agreement provides over \$17 billion in funding for the Department of Veteran Affairs. This includes \$10 billion in funding to allow veterans who live more than 40 miles away from a VA facility, or who have waited more than 30 days for an appointment at a VA medical center, to seek care with an outside provider. In addition, it provides the VA with \$6.5 billion in funding to address its critical shortage of doctors and nurses and to allow the VA to enter into 27 new medical facility leases. By expanding access to care, increasing staffing needs, and authorizing new clinics, this bill is a great first step in tackling many of the ongoing problems that have surfaced at the VA in recent years.

The Conference Report strengthens a number of other programs to help support our veterans and their families. It expands eligibility and provides veterans who experienced military sexual trauma while on inactive duty the opportunity to seek sexual trauma counseling. It also modifies the Post 9/11 GI Bill and allows veterans to receive in-state tuition rates at any public university, if they decide to relocate. Finally, today's legislation extends an important program set to expire later this year to provide housing for veterans struggling with traumatic brain injuries.

I do, however, have reservations about a provision in this bill which gives the VA Secretary broad authority to fire Senior Executive Service (SES) employees even though the VA already has tools to remove SES employees who are rated unsatisfactory. However, I am encouraged that—unlike legislation that passed the House earlier this year—the conference agreement does provide SES employees with an expedited appeals process through a Merit Systems Protection Board.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more important than providing for those who have sacrificed so much for our country. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARGARET
EDGE CHALFANT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret Edge Chalfant for a noteworthy career dedicated to the advancement

of the arts. After almost a decade as Executive Director of the Greater Denton Arts Council (GDAC), Ms. Chalfant is retiring from her distinguished service at the helm of the non-profit organization.

Margaret Chalfant's successful leadership at the GDAC began in 2005; in that same year, she was selected to attend the Women's Leadership Summit in Washington, DC. During her GDAC tenure, she has expanded and enhanced its permanent collection, upgraded and updated the physical facilities, and highlighted the importance of the arts through education outreach to students from the elementary level through college. She instituted an After School Arts program for Denton ISD schools, hosted An Artistic Discovery—the 26th Congressional district's annual high school art contest, and collaborated with the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University to initiate the Getting Started with the Arts program. Throughout her career she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the arts, as well as engaging in multiple civic activities to benefit the Denton community and the North Texas region.

The sterling reputation of the Greater Denton Arts Council is a reflection of the outstanding administration of Ms. Chalfant, and her professional legacy will continue to benefit the citizens of Denton for years to come. I join her colleagues and the community in commending the Greater Denton Arts Council's Executive Director, Margaret Edge Chalfant, for her outstanding record and extend best wishes upon her retirement. It is my privilege to represent the City of Denton in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE
CHOCTAWHATCHEE CHEER-
LEADERS AS 1A SMALL CO-ED
DIVISION STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the First Congressional District of Florida's Choctawhatchee Senior High School Indians for winning the 1A Small Co-ed Division State title at the Florida High School Athletic Association Cheerleading State Championship on January 31, 2014 for the third year in a row.

Located in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, Choctawhatchee High School boasts an exceptional cheer squad, led by coaches Shaunice Clay and Hailey Looney. During the preliminaries, the squad ranked 1st out of a total of fourteen squads before claiming victory over Harmony High School and Gulf Breeze High School.

I commend the following young men and women of the squad for both challenging themselves and inspiring their fellow students and youth throughout our community: Jenna Angelos, Jean Bernier, Megan Bradley, Loren Burkett, Olivia Carr, Kacey Childers, Dani Connelly, Alexia Faustinella, Shayla Fish, Tiffany Fought, Zach Given, Anna Greene, Rielly Griggs, Holly King, Kerri Kriech, Amy LeMenager, Rachel Loughney, CJ McDonald, Emily McGaughy, Johnny Mundy, Temple Nichols, Ashley Oliver, Sydney Pattison, Alli-

son Plantz, Storme Rynearson, Emory Shelton, Olivia Sims, Tristin Stevens, Mark Thomas Walker, Shane Wright, and Rachelle Wyatt. Choctawhatchee Senior High School's victory at the Florida High School Athletic Association Cheerleading State Championship is a true testament to the commitment and dedication of all the members of the squad, and it is a great reflection on Fort Walton Beach and the greater Northwest Florida community.

On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate the Indians for their extraordinary victory and wish them all the best for their continued success.

ON ADDRESSING THE HUMANI-
TARIAN CRISIS ON OUR BORDER

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support Comprehensive Immigration Reform, which would secure our borders, create a pathway to citizenship, and provides for electronic employment verification. I believe more than ever after having seen the humanitarian consequences of the crisis firsthand, we must act now. Having a broken system that is in dire need of reform only exacerbates the issue.

However, I oppose H.R. 5230, Making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes, and H.R. 5272, To prohibit certain actions with respect to deferred action for aliens not lawfully present in the United States, and for other purposes. These bills do not adequately address the problems in our immigration system or deal with the current influx of unaccompanied minors. These bills will also end protections that have provided relief to millions of people currently living in the U.S.

H.R. 5230 emasculates current anti-trafficking law, meant to protect minors from certain countries and allow them to apply for asylum in this country. The bill provides a fraction of the \$3.7 billion requested by President Obama to address the humanitarian crisis at our border. The bill would likely produce simulated hearings with fast-track adjudication that mimics due process for unaccompanied minors.

H.R. 5272 eviscerates the vital Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has provided much needed relief for millions of undocumented immigrants who arrived in this country as minors. DACA allows the Department of Homeland Security prosecutorial discretion towards some undocumented immigrants who immigrated to our nation as children not of their own volition.

Mr. Speaker, the humanitarian crisis caused by an influx of unaccompanied minors from mostly Central American countries with staggering crime rates has tested our nation's laws and values. We are a nation of laws but we are also a nation of values. We must treat all individuals, especially minors, in a way that is consistent with our values.

IS ANYBODY LISTENING?

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's USA Today, columnist Kirsten Powers raised an important question,

QUOTE: "Iraq's Christians are begging the world for help. Is anybody listening?" UNQUOTE.

Mr. Speaker, this is the seventh consecutive legislative day that I have come to House floor to ask that same question:

Is anybody listening?

Less than two weeks ago, on July 19, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, more commonly referred to as ISIS, ordered Christians to convert to Islam, pay taxes levied upon non-Muslims, or be killed.

In the region around Mosul—what we know as Nineveh in the Bible—there is not a single Christian left.

Think about that. There is not one Christian left in the ancient heart of Iraqi Christianity. A 2,000-year presence wiped away before our eyes in just a matter of weeks.

Yet President Obama has said nothing.

And Secretary of State Kerry has said nothing.

ISIS has driven people from their homes, taken their cars as they attempted to leave and stripped them of all their money and possessions.

We have heard accounts of ISIS terrorists cutting the fingers of people to steal their wedding rings.

Yet President Obama has said nothing.

And Secretary of State Kerry has said nothing.

Gruesome videos produced by ISIS are appearing on Internet showing beheadings and public displays of dismembered Christians. I couldn't even watch the video to the end; it was that grotesque.

Yet President Obama has said nothing.

And Secretary of State Kerry has said nothing.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power—who made a name for herself denouncing the U.S. and other governments' failure to act in the face of genocide—also has been silent on these genocidal acts.

What Power famously labeled "A Problem from Hell" is now taking place in Iraq on her watch.

Yet she says nothing in her post at the UN in New York.

Perhaps this lack of action should not be surprising given that her boss, President Obama, has said nothing.

President Obama has had multiple opportunities to use his "bully pulpit" to raise global attention to this genocide.

But we have heard NOT ONE WORD on the situation of the Christians being driven out of Iraq.

Let me lay out what has happened in Iraq just in the last six weeks:

All of Christians in Mosul have fled to the north, to Alqosh, Dohuk and other Assyrian villages.

In nearby Qaraqosh, 50,000 Assyrian Christian residents have fled from fighting between ISIS and Kurds.

All Christian institutions in Mosul—all 45 churches monasteries and cemeteries—have

been looted, destroyed, occupied, converted to mosques or shuttered.

All non-Sunni Muslim groups in Mosul—Shabaks, Yazidis and Turkmen—have been targeted by ISIS. Most have fled.

Water and electricity have been cut off by ISIS. The water shortage in the areas surrounding Mosul is now a full-blown crisis.

Mosul is now governed under Sharia law.

Congress is about to adjourn until after Labor Day. If the events of the last two months are any indication, one can only imagine the horrors that await over the next five weeks.

Absent urgent action what more will be on this list?

We cannot continue to sit back and watch these atrocities unfold.

President Obama, Secretary Kerry, Ambassador Power—before you take your summer vacations, you have a moral obligation to speak up.

Martin Luther King said QUOTE: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." UNQUOTE

President Obama, in your lifetime, books will be written on the end of Christianity in the Middle East.

History will acknowledge you and your administration's lack of will to do something—anything.

You have the power and the pulpit to do something before it is too late.

If you continue to do nothing, your silence will remain heavy on your conscious long after you leave office.

Mr. President, there are a number steps you can take right now that would make a difference—steps that don't require new funds or additional congressional action:

ONE. You can sign the bipartisan legislation approved by the House and Senate to create a special envoy to promote religious freedom in the Middle East that has been sitting on your desk this week. It is just waiting for your signature.

You can name someone to fill this post who can immediately deploy to the region to work with the Kurdish and Iraqi governments.

TWO. You can appoint someone in your administration to be the lead person coordinating all of the U.S. government resources necessary to stop this genocide.

THREE. You can publicly thank the Kurdish authorities for protecting the Christians and other religious minorities who have fled ISIS and found refuge in the Kurdish region;

FOUR. You can work with trusted NGO's—like Catholic Relief, Save the Children, UNICEF and others—who are already on the ground trying to help, but need U.S. assistance and leadership to help more people.

You can make sure they have the food, water, housing and medical resources to help the victims of this genocide; and

FIVE: You can direct the Secretary of State and USAID administrator to reprogram existing funds to provide these resources to trusted NGO's on the ground.

Mr. President, those are five simple steps you can do now and over the next five weeks that would make a difference.

All it takes is your interest and your leadership.

This April marked the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda.

One need only look at President Clinton's continued regret for his failure to act to stop

the Rwandan genocide to see how President Obama and his administration will feel years from now for their failure to act.

Last year, Clinton said "If we'd gone in sooner, I believe we could have saved at least a third of the lives that were lost . . . it had an enduring impact on me."

They would do well to recall the words of Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, who said: QUOTE: "We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

Mr. Speaker, I close with the words of German Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who stood up to the tyranny and horror of Nazism, and said, QUOTE: "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

It's time to act, while there are still people left to save.

Listen to the words of Psalm 82:3–4:

Defend the weak and the fatherless; Uphold the cause of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; Deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

Also, in the Old Testament in Ecclesiastes 4:1 it says,

"Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed—and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors—and they have no comforter."

Mr. President, I call on you to be on the side of the oppressed Christians.

SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN IRAQ

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, last month, 55 of my colleagues and I sent a priority letter to President Obama urging him to actively prioritize security and humanitarian support for the Christian community in Iraq. We specifically warned him of the dangers and brutality of the terrorist group ISIS in Iraq who are now rampaging across Iraq and terrorizing the vulnerable Christian population.

In the letter, we specifically pointed out to Mr. Obama that QUOTE, "Parts of Syria and Iraq that have previously fallen under the rule of ISIS have witnessed summary execution, beheadings and even crucifixions." And that QUOTE, "Absent immediate action, we will most certainly witness the annihilation of an ancient faith community from the lands they've inhabited for centuries." UNQUOTE

Tragically, Mr. Speaker, President Obama—who once likened ISIS to a junior varsity basketball team—simply ignored us again, as he has done so many times before. And now ISIS, this "junior varsity basketball team", is beheading their way across Iraq and has declared that there would be QUOTE "nothing for [the Christians] but the sword" if they do not convert." Last week, ISIS torched a 1,800-year-old church in Mosul and ruthlessly destroyed the historic tomb of Jonah. Images of ISIS beheadings, crucifixions, rapes, torture and mass execution are all over the Internet and social media. Just this morning, I met with

a group of NGOs based in Iraq who told me ISIS beheaded six Christians—then proceeded to play soccer with their decapitated heads.

This past Sunday, for the first time in 1,600 years, there was no Mass in Mosul. The head of Iraq's largest Christian community said, "For the first time in the history of Iraq, Mosul is now empty of Christians."

Mr. Speaker, ISIS has systematically and insidiously targeted Iraq's ancient Christians, and they are now nearly extinct. It can rightly be called targeted religious cleansing, and it is a crime against humanity."

And yet, we hear not a word from the President of the United States when a Christian genocide is taking place at this very moment. And we have not heard one syllable about what his administration is doing or planning to do to relieve or protect persecuted Christians in Iraq.

So, on the floor of this house, I repeat the words we wrote in a letter to President Obama a month ago, QUOTE, "we urge you and your administration to urgently and actively engage with the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to prioritize additional security support for these particularly vulnerable populations and provide emergency humanitarian assistance to those affected communities. Absent immediate action, we will most certainly witness the annihilation of an ancient faith community from the lands they've inhabited for centuries." UNQUOTE

Mr. Speaker, if President Obama continues to ignore this Christian Genocide in Iraq, history will record that it was Barack Obama who idly stood around and let it happen.

TRANSPARENT AIRFARES ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit the following letters into the record with regard to the debate on H.R. 4156.

CONSUMER FEDERATION
OF AMERICA

July 18, 2014

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Consumer Federation of America, a nonprofit association of consumer organizations around the country that represent the interests of millions of your constituents, urges you to reject H.R. 4156, the Transparent Airline Act of 2014. This bill may be taken up on the suspension calendar, but at whatever point it is presented, we ask you to oppose it.

There is nothing transparent, or pro-consumer, about this bill. It would allow airlines to advertise fares that do not include the mandatory taxes, hiding the true cost until consumers reach the end of the purchase process. This would make the cost of airline tickets appear artificially low and prevent budget-conscious consumers from determining upfront whether they can afford to fly and how the cost of doing so compares to other options, such as traveling to their destinations by train or car.

The argument that consumers are entitled to know how much of the ticket price is comprised of taxes is totally disingenuous—that breakdown does show before consumers complete their purchases. Unlike charges for things such as checked baggage and extra

legroom, however, taxes are not optional. Therefore, consumers do not base their air travel decisions on the amount of the taxes, which are standardized. Just as with buying gasoline, they shop for airline tickets based on the total cost including taxes. They are entitled to know that cost at the onset.

Please stand with the traveling public in supporting real truth in airfares by rejecting H.R. 4156.

Sincerely yours,

SUSAN GRANT,
Director of Consumer Protection.

JULY 15—CONSUMER GROUPS' LETTER TO U.S. HOUSE MEMBERS

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: We the undersigned consumer groups have learned that highly controversial H.R. 4156, the Transparent Airfares Act of 2014, is on the short list in the House for possible inclusion on the Suspension Calendar prior to the August recess. H.R. 4156 is contentious legislation that would harm millions of consumers by reversing a U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) rule implemented in 2012 as a cure to misleading airline advertising. We urge you to strongly object to the inclusion of H.R. 4156 on the Suspension Calendar.

Consumer groups were not alerted to the prospect of this legislation, nor were we provided any opportunity for input before Committee markup. H.R. 4156 was rushed by voice vote through the House Transportation Committee on April 9, 2014 after just 9 minutes of discussion. There were no hearings, no outreach for public opinion. This rushed process has denied other stakeholders an opportunity to inform Congress of their views and the flaws in this bill.

Now, after steamrolling the bill through Committee, airlines hope to rush the bill through the House under Suspension of the Rules. But this is not the type of unobjectionable proposal that the Suspension Calendar is designed for; rather, it is harmful and controversial special-interest legislation. There is not one consumer group or business travel organization that supports this legislation; most have publicly criticized both the bill and the rushed process.

This anti-consumer legislation serves no purpose, in our view, other than to mislead consumers about the real price of airfare—to the benefit of airlines, but at the expense of consumers.

Indeed, The New York Times Editorial Board on April 22 criticized the bill in an editorial saying: "This push to mislead consumers is particularly galling since recent mergers, like that of American Airlines and US Airways, have made the industry less competitive." Likewise, The Washington Post reported on April 24: "Consumers have reacted to this bill in the same way their advocates have: They're dead-set against it."

We urge you to stand up against this anti-consumer move by the airlines and to ask House leadership not to schedule this highly controversial bill for the Suspension Calendar, and instead insist on a fair opportunity for travel industry and consumer groups' input and proper deliberation.

Sincerely,

AirlinePassengers.org, Association for Airline Passenger Rights, Business Travel Coalition, Consumers Union, Ed Perkins, Consumer Advocate, FlyersRights.org, National Consumers League, Travelers United, U.S. PIRG.

TRAVELERS UNITED, INC.,
Arlington, VA, July 30, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: I write to outline the harm the Airfare Transparency Act (H.R. 4156) will cause for passengers, travel agen-

cies and corporate travel managers. And, to highlight the strong opposition to this legislation from consumers, the aviation distribution industry and corporate travel managers.

HR 4156 is completely unnecessary for its proposed impact.

Under this bill aviation will become the only industry in American permitted to add federal excise taxes and fees at the end of the ticket buying process, just like local taxes and fees.

HR 4156 will enshrine drip pricing into law, a form of deceptive and misleading pricing that has long been battled by the FTC and DOT.

This legislation makes understanding airfares less transparent, more confusing and misleading.

Airlines and their unions claim that this bill is necessary to ensure passengers know "exactly how much of their ticket price is attributable to federal taxes and fees while at the same time knowing the full price of air travel before they purchase a ticket."

The current DOT rules allow for airlines to do exactly that. Specific language in the regulation codifies how that can be done. Plus, airlines have many other opportunities to clearly outline taxes and fees paid when purchasing tickets. Airlines can explain taxes and fees on ticket itineraries. Airlines can print taxes and fees on boarding passes along with Sudoko games and the weather. However, airlines choose not to do this.

When airlines claim that they are the unjustly subjected to revealing federal excise taxes prior to purchase, they are wrong. Every other industry in the U.S. that is subjected to federal excise taxes and federal fees includes those costs in the product price. These include gasoline, liquor, beer, tires, trucks and others. The taxes and fees that other transportation and travel entities add to the final prices are state and local taxes and fees—airlines are exempt from those taxes.

The only part of this bill that would change what can be done under the current DOT full-fare regulations is the misleading and deceptive ability to advertise incomplete low prices for which no consumer can purchase air travel.

HR 4156 makes airfares more difficult to understand and purchase. It was passed out of committee and under suspension of rules with no consumer input and no consultation with the airline distribution network of travel agents and corporate travel managers that deal with the public on a day-by-day basis.

This bill has been opposed by far more than a few "talking heads."

Almost every major newspaper has opposed HR 4156 in editorials or articles over the past few months. The papers and magazines include The New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Chicago Tribune, Time Magazine, and many others. A change.org petition garnered more than 127,000 signatures specifically opposing this bill.

Major consumer organization, in addition to Travelers United (formerly Consumer Travel Alliance), have aligned to oppose this legislation. These organization include AAA, Association for Airline Passenger Rights, Business Travel Coalition, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, Ed Perkins (Consumer Advocate), FlyersRights.org, National Consumers League and U.S. PIRG.

This legislation undoes years of hard work by advocates to ensure that consumers are not duped when purchasing airfare. Transparency cannot be achieved through confusion.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE LEOCHA,
Chairman.

RECOGNIZING MR. FLOYD
BENNINGHOFF'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Floyd Benninghoff, who reached the milestone of his 100th birthday on June 12th, 2014.

Mr. Benninghoff was born in Hamlet, IN as 1 of 9 brothers and sisters and spent most of his life as a Hoosier. He is the father to Ronald Benninghoff and Lynn Kline, a grandfather to 5 grandchildren and a great grandfather to 14. During World War II he served his country as an airplane technician, then spent the next several years as a delivery driver for the Jewel Tea Company before retiring from Sears. He is well known by his family and friends for his love of music and his guitar playing abilities.

I am honored to wish Mr. Floyd Benninghoff a very happy 100th birthday and to recognize his admirable life. On behalf of Indiana's Second District, I am proud to recognize Mr. Benninghoff's birthday and life and wish him good health and many more birthdays.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT OF ESCAMBIA
HIGH SCHOOL NAVY JUNIOR RE-
SERVE OFFICERS TRAINING
CORPS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Escambia High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) for placing first in this year's Navy League NJROTC drill team competition. This outstanding achievement is evidence of the hard work and dedication of the Escambia High NJROTC program.

After a year of three to four hour long practices after school, a combined 15,000 hours of community service required to satisfy NJROTC standards, and months of local and regional competitions, the "Gator Elite," as they're known, beat out more than 600 other NJROTC programs to achieve the highest honor and bring this prestigious recognition back to Northwest Florida.

In addition to the normal academic coursework, the members of Escambia High's NJROTC program were required to comply with rigorous procedures to maintain discipline through uniform inspections and strict grooming standards, while also mastering the core components of drill team exercises, through marching practice and adroit handling of rifles in showmanship fashion. The "Gator Elite" achieved these tasks with the highest degree of excellence, as evidenced by their first place performance at the NJROTC national championships.

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is my privilege to congratulate the Escambia High NJROTC "Gator Elite"—Corey Abercrombie, Joshua Aguilar, Alexander Apin, Nigel Archer-Shee, Alexis Cannon, Michael Cox, Faith Doby, Audrey Ferrand, Emerald

Francis, Julia Freeman, Ruben Gardner Jr., Christopher Gibson, Cassandra Harrison, Katelin Hayes, Daniel Helms, Thalezondra Hill-Dowdy, Matthew Holmes, Brenda Jernigan, JoseRafael Kaibigan, Angelique Le, Jared Lyon, Jason Mitchell, Andrew Nicolle, Austin Odell, Jeremiah Renfro, Destiny Seladones, Jimmie Simmons, Alfonso Sosa, Antonio Stone, Brian Thompson, Kenny Tu, Alphonso Williams, Erik Williams, Nicholas Willig, Alex Wilson and Brieonna Wilson and their instructors, LCDR Eddie Thompson (USN, Ret.), SCPO Ruben Gardner (USN, Ret.), and SGTMAJ Andre Francis (USMC, Ret.). My wife Vicki joins me in wishing them all the best for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIE WILSON,
CHAIRMAN OF OMAR MEDICAL
SUPPLY COMPANY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 27th, 2014, Dr. Willie Wilson celebrated the 27th anniversary of Singation, his nationally syndicated gospel television show at the Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Morgan Park, where Apostle William A. Ellis is Pastor and spiritual leader.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Wilson, not only for the longevity of this production, but also for his business success and for his humanitarian work with faith-based organizations.

Dr. Willie Wilson is no ordinary man. He is basically a man of great religious faith. Self educated, self made, high school dropout, multi millionaire business man, a great philanthropist who contributes somewhere in the area of a million dollars annually to small churches and provides financial support to many other charities.

In addition to running his businesses (Omar Medical Supply Company), he serves as Chairman and Chief Fundraiser for the Chicago Baptist Institute, a college level educational and training institute for clergy and lay individuals who want to learn how to more effectively practice Christian principles and practice in their everyday lives.

Dr. Wilson is well known for his hobby and passion for singing gospel music. On practically every Sunday afternoon, he, along with his gospel singing group and orchestra can be found at a small church singing gospel music, after which he always leaves a sizeable donation for the church.

A man among men, a giver from his heart, and a leader of leaders.

I commend and congratulate Dr. Willie Wilson as he and his friends celebrate 27 years of Singation.

DENOUNCING USE OF CIVILIANS
AS HUMAN SHIELDS BY HAMAS
AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANI-
ZATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 107, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of the State of Israel as it defends itself against rocket attacks launched by Hamas.

These deadly rocket attacks launched from Gaza into Israel by Hamas against unarmed civilian populations are deserving of the condemnation of this House and the international community.

Mr. Speaker, since the most recent air-strikes began, hundreds of persons—Israelis and Palestinians—have been killed and many hundreds more injured.

No sovereign nation can be expected to stand idly by while unprovoked acts of violence are perpetrated against its citizens by terrorists or foreign entities.

Israel has, as do all countries under the law of nations, the right to exist and the right to self-defense. This means Israel is allowed to take all necessary, appropriate, and measured actions required to keep its people safe. Hamas should cease using their fellow citizens as human shields.

But at the end of the day, the peace and justice we all seek will come from the parties acting in good faith to find a just and lasting peace that recognizes Israel's right to exist, renounces violence and terrorism, and achieves the two-state solution.

Among the most important things that can be done to bring peace and the two-state solution into being and to halt the suffering is for the Administration to redouble its efforts to mediate a peaceful resolution of the conflict and for the President Mahmoud Abbas to exercise stronger leadership in rallying and uniting the Palestinian people under the banner of peace with justice.

Mr. Speaker, I condemn launching rockets into civilian populations. In addition to death and destruction, such attacks instill fear and cause suffering to innocent men, women, and children.

Finally, I offer sympathies for the loss of life among the Israelis and the Palestinians.

As the great theologian St. Augustine reminds us, "peace is the necessary condition in which people can be free to work out their eternal destiny."

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
JOHNPAUL JONES

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Johnpaul Jones for his distinguished architecture, his commitment to honoring our natural world and cultures, and his accomplishments as a recipient of the 2013 National Humanities Medal.

A Bainbridge Island resident of 43 years, Johnpaul Jones has enriched our community and historical awareness through his holistic approach to space design. Locally, he has earned the title of "Island Treasure" for his help in designing the Japanese American Exclusion Memorial and the Waypoint Park on Bainbridge Island. In designing the gorilla exhibit and the elephant house at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, Mr. Jones' unique approach pioneered a movement to design more natural habitats for zoo animals.

Mr. Jones' design philosophy is deeply rooted in his Cherokee-Choctaw ancestors. Johnpaul Jones' projects have demonstrated an ingrained respect for the natural world and native landscapes and for enhancing awareness of the indigenous people, cultures, and the communities in which they inhabit. This philosophy is apparent in his celebrated design of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC.

Mr. Jones has received multiple honors and awards for his work including the American Institute of Architects Seattle Medal, the Executive Excellence Award from the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Oregon, his alma mater.

Most recently, President Barack Obama honored Johnpaul Jones with a National Humanities Medal. The National Humanities Medal, introduced in 1997, honors individuals and groups whose work has enhanced our nation's understanding of the humanities and expanded our citizens' involvement with history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other humanities subjects. Johnpaul Jones, the first architect to be honored with this award, was one of ten who received the 2013 National Humanities Medal for his work in broadening our nation's cultural understanding and awareness through his architecture.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by again applauding Johnpaul Jones for his environmentally conscious and culturally reverent architecture and for his commitment to our community. From our nation's capital to the beautiful city of Bainbridge Island, Johnpaul's work preserves our nation's stories for generations to come. I am honored to recognize Johnpaul Jones today in the United States Congress.

HONORING FRANKLIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL'S NATIONAL DEFENSE CADET CORPS

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the hard work and dedication of students in Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District who participate in Franklin County High School's National Defense Cadet Corps in Winchester.

Once again, these students were Senior National Finalists in the 34th Annual National Energy Education Development Project's Youth Awards.

They were presented the award in Washington, DC, on June 23, 2014. The cadets were recognized for their excellence in environmental education. This year's projects included studying the feasibility of Compressed

Natural Gas as an alternate energy source. The Elk River Public Utility District contributed by providing benefits and a demonstration including test driving of their CNG vehicles. The students increased their knowledge on solar power production by visiting the Duck River Electric Municipal Cooperative solar farm.

One of their most unique recycling efforts not only saved 22 trees but promoted literacy among elementary school children. The cadets sponsored a community wide book drive called "Ride for Reading." This is a national effort to deliver free books to Title I schools. The Cadet Corps delivered 1,472 books to Cowan Elementary School by bicycle. Every elementary student received five free books. The cadets once again recycled cooking oil that was turned into biodiesel by Winchester Utilities for city equipment. The cadets were recognized on the field during a University of Tennessee home football game and awarded a \$1,000 grant for their recycling efforts as part of the Good Sports Always Recycle program.

These are just some of the projects these energetic students undertook to make an impact on their community and promote environmental education this school year. It is always a pleasure to see our young people are civically engaged. Each student's individual drive has led them to great accomplishments. I want to thank them for their dedication and wish them the best as they continue in their educational pursuits. I am proud to represent these fine young people and their friends and families in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING FOUR-TIME STATE CHAMPIONS RILEY RAMBO AND TAYLOR LYCKMAN

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Riley Rambo and Taylor Lyckman from Menard, Texas on their historic 1A Mixed Doubles Tennis State Championship, on April 30th—a noteworthy accomplishment in and of itself.

While any state championship is impressive, this duo made U-I-L history by being the first mixed doubles team to win the title four years running.

Over the course of their high school careers, they have exemplified hard work, perseverance, and tenacity; and have become hometown heroes because of it. They are role models inspiring the younger generations of Menard.

Riley and Taylor are not your normal doubles team. They are not just teammates or friends; they are cousins. They are family. They have grown up together, competed together, and won together. I can only imagine the overwhelming excitement and pride their entire family feels from this accomplishment. I encourage them to savor their historic feat and wish them all the best in their bright futures.

Again, I congratulate Mr. Rambo and Ms. Lyckman on their historic fourth Mixed Doubles Tennis State Championship title.

HONORING RALPH FERTIG

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Ralph Fertig from Santa Barbara County, who passed away suddenly on July 18, 2014.

Ralph was a devoted community leader and advocate for sustainable transportation in the Santa Barbara community. He was also the perennial renaissance man, having graduated from Penn State in 1961 with a degree in art and architecture before studying painting and ceramics at Cranbrook Academy of Art, earning a master's in mathematics from the University of Michigan, studying photography with Ansel Adams, and finally earning a second master's degree in photography from the Chicago Institute of Design in 1970.

Ralph came to the Santa Barbara community in the early 1980s to work on graphics and marketing for a computer communications company. It was during those early days in Santa Barbara that Ralph rediscovered his love of bicycling and began commuting by bike to work every day.

It wasn't long before Ralph became known in Santa Barbara as an effective civil advocate for the bike community. In 1991, he joined a group of local cyclists to form a group eventually known as the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition to advocate for the improvement of road and trail conditions. He also began publishing a monthly newsletter that, for the next 20 years, would be the voice of the bicycle community and a powerful force on behalf of pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Ralph made it his mission to attend every local transportation planning meeting to bear witness to the need for more space on the roads for bicycles, and he did this with perseverance, intellectual honesty, and respect. Ralph served as a member of the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition for more than 20 years, attending many bicycling conferences all over North America. In 1998, Ralph single-handedly brought the Pro Bike/Pro Walk conference to Santa Barbara, attracting 540 participants from around the country. He was involved with crafting the City of Santa Barbara's Bicycle Master Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, and a regional Bikeway Signage Program.

Ralph was keenly aware of how transportation projects impact environmental quality and social equity. In 2010 the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation, or COAST, recognized Ralph with its biggest honor, the Barry Siegel Award, for his contributions to Santa Barbara County in the field of sustainable transportation.

I offer my most heartfelt condolences to Ralph's friends and family, and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exemplary American and Santa Barbara County resident.

HONORING ROSS ERWIN HANNA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it brings me sadness and honor to pay final tribute to Ross

Erwin Hanna. Ross passed peacefully on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 after 91 years of life well lived.

Ross was born in San Francisco, CA, on October 20, 1922 as the youngest of six children to Tom and Wanda Hanna. Ross grew up in the Alhambra Valley with his four brothers and sister. Ross spent his childhood roaming the hills around his home and enjoyed spending summers in the Sierras. Ross's love of the outdoors was a legacy from his grandfather, naturalist John Muir.

Soon after graduating from Alhambra High School in Martinez, Pearl Harbor was bombed and Ross enlisted in the California Coast Guard where he served in numerous landings in the South Pacific. WWII sent him to the Pacific for four years, but built friendships that continued to grow for seven decades.

After the war, he went to Stockton, CA to attend the College of the Pacific (now University of the Pacific) where he graduated with a degree in business, and was a fraternity man at Alpha Kappa Phi Fraternity. Music was a major part of Ross's life and he led the Ross Hanna Orchestra during college. There Ross met a young Gladys Ann Stoeven who would later become his bride. Ross and Gladys married in San Mateo, CA in June of 1948.

Over the next 66 years the two of them had much to celebrate. A year to the day after they were married, they welcomed their first son, Hal. They moved to Dixon soon after his birth and two years later welcomed son Michael. Four years after their two boys, they welcomed a sweet daughter, Lynne. Ross and Gladys enjoyed raising their children in Dixon.

Ross imparted his love for nature to all of his children and grandchildren. Pack trips in the mountains, fishing in streams and lakes, hiking and enjoying nature are all a part of their memories. Ross left this life to join his parents Tom and Wanda Hanna, brothers Strent, John, Dick and Bob, his sister Jean and numerous family and friends who have gone before him. Ross is survived by his loving wife Gladys of 66 years; son Hal and wife Kathleen, son Michael Muir and daughter Lynne Hanna-Lincoln; grandchildren Tim Hanna and wife Jamie, Liz Fuller and husband James, Allison Theubet and husband Jerry and Mei-Lin Hanna. Ross lived to see eight great-grandchildren join his family; Kilian, Stephen, Natalie, Timmy, Gabby and Kolbe Theubet and Ross and Matthew Fuller. Ross will be missed by immeasurable friends and family members, but his love and music will play in their hearts forever.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MAYOR GEORGE VUKOVICH

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of former Mayor George Vukovich of Youngstown, Ohio who passed away on Monday, July 28, 2014 at the tender age of 87 with his wife of 64 years, Helen, by his side. He was a dedicated and compassionate public servant, serving for over 20 years as the Seventh Ward Councilman, Clerk of Youngstown Municipal Court, and Mayor of Youngstown.

When I first started my political career I was lucky enough to have spent time with George. He always had great stories to tell of the good old days. But more importantly he always gave good advice and counsel. I will always remember how much he talked about and treasured his family, especially his grandkids. I really enjoyed our time together.

Mayor Vukovich served as mayor from 1979–1983 and oversaw the city during one of its darkest hours. Although Youngstown was suffering from massive job loss due to the decline of the steel industry, Mayor Vukovich was able to hold the city together during one of its most trying seasons. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army who loved his community. Mayor Vukovich was also active in the Youngstown Democratic Party, a member of the Catholic War Veterans, the Croation Fraternal Union (Lodge 185, Campbell), and St. Angela Merici Parish (Sacred Heart of Jesus). He treasured spending time with his family, as well as hosting visits from loved ones, especially his grandchildren who were his greatest joy. He and his wife spent many winters in Florida during retirement where they enjoyed boating and long walks on the beach.

Mayor Vukovich is survived by his beloved wife Helen; his daughters, Carol and Sonia; grandchildren, Carrie, Michael, Carly, and Katie; brothers Peter and Henry, an abundance of loved ones and friends. George has been preceded in death by his loving parents, sisters Ann and Helen, as well as his brothers Jack, John, and Thomas. I am proud to honor the life of Mayor George Vukovich. The city of Youngstown is forever indebted to honorable years of his service. Youngstown is a much better place to call home because of his valiant work. My deepest condolences go out to his family and close friends. George will be deeply missed but his courageous spirit will forever live on through the hearts and lives he has touched.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,618,599,653,160.19. We've added \$6,991,722,604,247.11 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

FIRST RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHER SOLD

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, across this nation tens of thousands of children live with rare pediatric diseases, such as childhood cancers,

that threatens their bright futures. As the chairman of the Childhood Cancer Caucus, I have personally met with dozens of children and their families who are desperate for treatments.

Since the 1980s, only one new treatment has been developed for children with cancer. Sadly, for many other rare pediatric diseases, no Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved treatment exists at all. That is why I introduced the Creating Hope Act in 2011, to create an incentive for drug companies to develop new treatments for children with rare pediatric diseases, such as pediatric cancers.

Without any cost to the taxpayer, the Creating Hope Act established a priority review voucher (PRV) for rare pediatric diseases as Sec. 908 of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act. As an incentive for developing a new rare pediatric disease treatment, a company can be awarded a PRV by the FDA. The voucher entitles a company to a priority six month review of another new drug application that would otherwise be reviewed under the FDA's standard ten month review period. Companies can also choose to sell or transfer the voucher to another drug sponsor.

On Valentine's Day this year the first rare pediatric disease PRV was awarded to BioMarin for Vimizim to treat Morquio A Syndrome. There are fewer than 800 kids in the United States with Morquio A Syndrome. Vimizim will help children living with this terrible disease to live a longer and healthier life. That's what every kid should have.

And just this week, BioMarin sold its voucher to Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi for \$67.5 million. This will allow BioMarin to reinvest their new earnings in even more products to treat rare and ultra-rare diseases. And it will allow Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi to speed up FDA review of Alirocumab, an experimental drug designed to lower low-density lipoprotein cholesterol in patients who have previously tried other treatments. This is a win-win for the companies, but best of all this will benefit patients.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this news demonstrates the value of this important program. As Dr. Ned Braunstein, Regeneron's Vice President for Regulatory Affairs, said after his company announced that it was buying BioMarin's voucher, the "decision to acquire and leverage the voucher is clear evidence that this program is a valuable incentive for biopharmaceutical companies."

Many people deserve credit for helping to make the Creating Hope Act a reality. Congressman FRED UPTON, the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD, Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS, the Vice Chair of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, and former Congresswoman Sue Myrick, were all tremendous champions of this law. So too were many countless advocates, but most of all Nancy Goodman. A mother and an advocate, Nancy is the founder and executive director of Kids V Cancer, which is fighting to change the landscape of pediatric research.

More children deserve life-saving treatments which is why I hope to work with my colleagues to make the rare pediatric disease Priority Review Voucher program permanent. As a father I can think of nothing more important than investing in our children's futures.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER LOUISE
JONES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Mother Louise Jones was born in Brewster, Florida on September 24, 1931. She later moved to Chicago, Illinois in 1943, with her Uncle John and Aunt Jessie Walker, who lived in the South Chicago Community.

Mother Louise attended James N. Thorpe Elementary School and Bowen High School. She joined the Pilgrim Baptist Church of South Chicago in 1946 and has remained active in the church affairs ever since. She served under Rev. Wainwright, she also served under G.G. Osborne and Rev. Hilliard Hudson as his pulpit nurse for 27 years.

Mother Louise's work and life were both immersed in the church. She held a number of governmental positions with the City of Chicago, County of Cook, and worked at both Oak Forest and South Shore Hospitals where she worked for 18 years until retirement in 2010.

Mother Louise loved politics and cooking and was actively involved with both. She was filled with vision, a warm spirit and hope. She was a helper and a giver, always giving and always helping.

Mother Louise was obviously one of the best social workers around, without even trying. She would sense a problem or need and always react to help.

We know that when time came, the good Lord just opened up the doors of heaven and said, "Well done my good and faithful servant, Louise come on in."

We express condolences to the family and friends, especially our friend and her daughter Dr. Sharon A. Latiker and immediate family and all of the host of loved ones that she is leaving behind.

May her soul rest in peace.

HONORING SHERIFF RODNEY L.
COFFEY OF MENIFEE COUNTY,
KENTUCKY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Rodney L. Coffey of Menifee County, Kentucky for his years of dedication and service to the citizens of Frenchburg, Menifee County, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our great nation.

Sheriff Coffey has devoted over 20 years to the law enforcement profession. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Police Administration, graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Police Academy, the National FBI Academy Class 229 and served eight years in the Navy Reserves.

He served on the Morehead State University Police Department for eight years prior to running for Sheriff. Elected Sheriff in 1998, Coffey served as one of the youngest sheriffs in the history of Kentucky. He was named Kentucky Sheriffs' Association Sheriff of the Year in

2003, served on the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association from 2007–2013 and was elected President of that same organization in 2014.

Soon after the devastating and fatal tornado that touched down in Menifee County two years ago, Sheriff Coffey invited me to see firsthand the relief and response efforts taking place. At a time of turmoil and tragedy, Sheriff Coffey provided a calming and helpful presence in the community. I remember him leading me into the Red Cross trailer where his wife and family were volunteering. His selfless devotion to maintaining the safety of the residents of Menifee County is truly heroic, and I am honored to represent him in Congress.

I commend Sheriff Rodney Coffey for his honorable service, his leadership in the community and his patriotic devotion to this nation. I am proud to call him a friend.

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE
DAVID R. OBEY

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service, at the University of Wisconsin—Marathon, on the opening of their newest facility named after one our state's most dedicated public servants, former Congressman Dave Obey.

The David R. Obey Civic Resource Center will provide opportunities to educate and encourage young people to become active participants in a healthy democratic society.

Many lessons can be learned from Dave Obey's leadership and service in this House.

While, Dave Obey remains a fierce champion of progressive causes, the Obey Center will embody his bipartisan approach and will encourage our citizens to explore the facts and ideas on both sides of any debate.

Dave's impact is still felt within the Wisconsin delegation today as we continue his tradition of working together, regardless of party, to serve the citizens of our state.

I applaud the opening of the Obey Center—a place that will ensure future generations of Wisconsinites become the leaders we need.

REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS
ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the so-called "Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act," which would roll back clean water protections and allow untracked pesticide pollution in our rivers and streams.

More than two and a half years ago, the Environmental Protection Agency put in place basic pesticide protections by requiring a general permit for the direct application of pesticides into waterways. Nearly 2,000 waterways are already contaminated by pesticides, harming fish and amphibians and potentially

accumulating in people who eat those fish. The commonsense permit does not affect land applications of pesticides, maintains existing agricultural exemptions, and allows for immediate spraying to protect the public from vector-borne diseases.

Today's legislation would roll back the permitting rule, leaving pesticide application unmonitored and our waterways vulnerable to contamination. I urge a "no" vote.

HONORING MR. PAT BOWLEN

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Pat Bowlen. Mr. Bowlen is a natural leader with unquestionable integrity, an incredible work ethic, and a voracious appetite for success. As the Denver Broncos owner over 30 years, he led the team to back-to-back Super Bowl Championships and 6 AFC Division Championships.

In 1984, Mr. Bowlen took over as the Denver Broncos CEO during a time when the team was having financial difficulties. Since then, his distinguished leadership and strategic vision has turned the franchise into one of the most successful teams in the NFL today.

His outstanding business acumen is respected by players, coaches, and the fans themselves. In 2000, according to an ESPN fan poll, Mr. Bowlen was voted in as the NFL owner fans would most like to play for.

Mr. Bowlen is also very proactive in the Denver community. In 2007, he was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2013 received the Mizel Institute Community Enrichment Award, only given to those who have exemplary philanthropic involvement in their communities.

During his personal time, Mr. Bowlen has participated in grueling fitness activities such as the Ironman Triathlon, which is just another testament to his incredible self discipline and work ethic.

Due to Mr. Bowlen's courageous fight against Alzheimer's disease, he will step down this month from his position as CEO of one of the greatest NFL franchises in history, but his dignified legacy will live on. Mr. Bowlen, thank you for being such a positive influence and inspiration for the city of Denver, the Colorado community, and people all across the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
"EXPRESSING THE SENSE THAT
THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE SHALL TAKE ALL AP-
PROPRIATE MEASURES TO EN-
SURE THE CONTINUATION OF
DOOR DELIVERY FOR ALL"

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution of the House "expressing the sense that the United States

Postal Service shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all."

Many do not realize that the Post Office is already in the process of phasing out door delivery service, the heart of its customer experience.

And that if some in Congress had their way it would be eliminated entirely!

In my home state of California, residents in newly planned communities are already witnessing the end of traditional mail delivery.

Instead, residents are being forced to resort to so-called cluster boxes—centralized curbside locations many of which are in unsecure locations and poorly maintained.

Just last month local residents from a community meeting in my district adopted an official neighborhood resolution calling on Congress to address this pressing issue.

I have heard stories from dozens of my constituents about cluster boxes being stolen or damaged and having to wait months to raise enough money to replace them.

Americans have benefited from door delivery service ever since the time of the Civil War.

But now some in Congress, in a short-sighted attempt to cut costs, are pushing through a radical overhaul of the Post Office without even considering the consequences.

Studies have shown that in today's digital age it is people with disabilities and the elderly that rely most on postal mail more, especially for prescription medicine.

Yes it is these very groups that would most be hurt by the sudden forced adoption of centralized cluster boxes.

And businesses all across the country, especially startups will be forced to close up shop since there will be no way to guarantee the security of their delivery.

All this just for short term cost cutting—which will do nothing to address the long term solvency of the Post Office.

And we already know that nobody wants these changes. In 2013, USPS offered voluntary cluster box conversions to businesses and only .8 percent signed up.

What business could survive by constantly looking for ways to reduce customer satisfaction?

Or by finding ways to devalue the very service, door delivery, it is known for?

But that is what the proponents of such radical postal reform efforts have in mind.

Furthermore, such changes will end the equal mail delivery system we have now for everyone.

Forced adoption of cluster boxes and a "delivery tax", whereby only the wealthy will have access to door delivery, will create a two-tiered system breaking the fundamental unity that has always been central to the Post Office's mission.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this effort to help preserve door delivery for all.

SUPPORTING THE INCREASED DIALOGUE BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding the 40th

anniversary of the division of Cyprus, and to encourage a final settlement that makes possible a reunited island and a shared, peaceful and prosperous future for all Cypriots.

Over time, members of this House have delivered, and will deliver, statements denouncing Cyprus' status quo, while placing all responsibility of it with Turkey and its actions in 1974. It is scarcely noted that in 1963, as a result of ethnic tension, Turkish Cypriots were compelled to leave the joint institutions of the Republic of Cyprus. This hostile environment for the Turkish Cypriots continued and in 1974, the Cypriot National Guard, supported by Greece's military junta, launched a coup to secure enosis—or unification—with Greece. Following the coup, animosity towards Turkish Cypriots increased and the Cyprus that was once unified, became an environment where the Turkish Cypriots no longer felt safe nor welcome in their home country. Turkey defends it was within its rights to protect the population as a guarantor power under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee.

Each year, we hear from one side that a final settlement can be achieved once Turkey withdraws its forces from the island. The Turkish government has previously stated time and again its desire for a final settlement that protects the rights and freedoms of both communities, and will allow Turkish troops to return home. Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan called again this week for a political settlement based on mutual consensus and the political equality of both communities. Turkish Cypriots demonstrated their desire for the reunification of the island through their support—a decade ago—of the Annan Plan, which contained drastic compromises for both communities, yet was rejected by the Greek Cypriot community. The continuing isolation of Turkish Cypriots from the international community in the ten years since while Greek Cypriots, as the Republic of Cyprus, utilize EU membership and the global flows of commerce, is an imbalance that must be redressed.

The only solution to this imbalance, and the status quo in total, is a comprehensive agreement where the rights and equality of both communities are recognized, respected, and maintained. Both parties will have to give, if common ground is to be secured. I call upon both sides to continue their efforts on this front, and express my hopes that the Administration do everything within its power to support such a process.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE KEVIN BURNHAM OF THE SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on July 25th, the Springfield, Massachusetts, Police Department said farewell to their longest serving officer when Kevin Burnham retired after 43 years and two months on the job. A highly respected professional, a popular colleague, and a dear friend to everyone on the force, Kevin relinquished his Senior Officer badge last week to Ruben Borrero following a time-honored tradition. For the first time since 1971, Detective

Burnham would not be patrolling the streets of the city he loves.

Ask anyone in the Department who their favorite co-worker was, and the reply would likely be Kevin Burnham. They admired his dedication, strength and courage. They enjoyed his sense of humor and the laughter that seemed to follow him everywhere. And his loyalty was unquestioned. At the end of the day, Kevin looked upon the Springfield Police Department as a band of brothers and sisters. To him, the force was a family working together to make our city a better place to live, work and raise our children.

From his early days as a rookie, it was obvious that Kevin was born to be a cop. He had the street smarts necessary to be effective in law enforcement, but he also had compassion.

Those two qualities were the reasons his career was so successful. Whether it was becoming one of the first detectives to work on the Narcotics Bureau, his service in both the Uniform Division and the Crime Prevention Bureau, or the responsibility that came with the job of Evidence Officer, Kevin performed each task exceptionally. He was honest and trustworthy and his fellow officers knew he had their back.

Being a Police Officer always comes with risks. And two years ago, one of his closest friends, Officer Kevin Ambrose, was killed in the line of duty. To Kevin Burnham, it was the lowest of low points. But with his trademark integrity and character, he led the funeral procession for his fallen friend along with nearly one thousand law enforcement officers from across the country. He helped turn a sad day into a touching tribute to a lost comrade. That's the kind of person he is.

Kevin and Barbara Burnham have been great friends of mine for many years. They are good people and great fun. As Kevin begins his well-deserved retirement, I want to wish him nothing but the very best. And on behalf of the United States of America, it gives me personal satisfaction to congratulate him on an extraordinary career serving and protecting the citizens of Springfield. Well done Detective Burnham!

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN'S POLICIES

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, as everyone in this Chamber knows, Russia has been conducting itself in a manner that is irresponsible and demands accountability. Over the past several months we have witnessed President Vladimir Putin's ruthless actions in Crimea and now Eastern Ukraine that has prompted a series of economic sanctions that are being escalated as he continues to display a doctrine of muscular nationalism amid the growing concerns in Europe and the U. S.

This past week, the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague announced a historic ruling that the Russian Federation had violated the Energy Charter Treaty when it expropriated the assets of the Yukos Oil Company after fabricating tax charges and put its founder and chairman, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, in prison. Mr. Khodorkovsky's former holding

company, GML, rightly brought the case to the Hague and received a ruling in their favor that exceeded \$50 billion.

I have been following this case for the past ten years because I am personally acquainted with Mr. Khodorkovsky and was greatly concerned when the Russian government confiscated his company and then had him arrested. At the time, a top aide to President Putin, Igor Sechin, maneuvered the government takeover of Yukos and eventually created Rosneft, a company he now heads, without any compensation to the Yukos Oil Company investors and shareholders.

I am pleased that Mr. Khodorkovsky was eventually released from prison and that the Hague's Arbitration Court, after seven years of litigation, has finally brought justice to a case where one of the world's largest countries seized the assets of its largest company, thus violating all the principles associated with the rule of law.

But as the extensive news accounts reveal, it is unlikely that the Russian Federation under the guidance of Mr. Putin will honor the court's decision that awarded the GML shareholders about half of the original \$114 billion claim. Undoubtedly, Russia will exhaust all means to contest the ruling and avoid payment, but ultimately justice will prevail even if it results in the seizure of assets outside Russia.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that President Vladimir Putin's authoritarianism and nationalistic policies are moving our bilateral relationship back to the Cold War days. The Russian leader has to recognize that in today's world he has to be held accountable for actions that are reprehensible, whether they are geopolitical in attempting to impose his will on other countries or internal when it involves the core tenets of democracy: rule of law, a free press and a viable opposition. Indeed he is taking Russia in the wrong direction.

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the highway bill before us today. While I strongly support infrastructure spending and believe we must pass a short-term fix to avert insolvency this summer, I am concerned that this bill will allow us to simply kick the can down the road one more time and delay a long-term solution.

This week, the Senate voted on a bipartisan basis to shorten the timeline of this emergency extension, increasing pressure for a permanent solution this year. The House should not now delay those urgent conversations into next Spring. Our states and businesses have repeatedly asked for a long-term highway bill that provides certainty and allows them to tackle our greatest infrastructure needs. Congress should pass a temporary patch to get us the next few months, and then immediately begin work to fix the Trust Fund once and for all. Our constituents expect solutions, not band-aids, and it is long past time for Congress to deliver.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE US MEDICAL SOCCER TEAM

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Soccer Caucus, I rise today to recognize the US Medical Soccer Team. The Congressional Soccer Caucus mission is to encourage legislation, activities and events that promote soccer and issues affecting the greater soccer community, toward encouraging healthy and active lifestyles among America's youth.

The US Medical Soccer Team is an organization comprised of practicing physicians from around the country who share a passion for soccer, medical education and community service. They represent the United States in the World Medical Football Championships, which is an annual World Cup-style soccer tournament comprised of similar physician teams from around the world. On July 6th, the US Medical Soccer Team will kick off their fifth year of participation in this tremendous event, taking place this year in Natal, Brazil.

The US Medical Soccer Team formed in 2010 by connecting physically active physicians who love the game of soccer. While their time on the soccer field has been an incredible experience, the growing focus of the organization has been community service. As active physicians, the US Medical Soccer Team is passionate about reaching out to underserved youth around the United States through their outreach program "Healthy, Fit and Smart". This program, focused on fitness, nutrition and education, is a fun and interactive way for the team to convey the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle while educating about careers in science and healthcare. The soccer brought the team together, but the outreach has enriched their lives and fostered strong connections to numerous community centers and organizations around the country.

In the summer of 2015, the US Medical Soccer Team is honored to host the World Medical Football Championships in Long Beach, California. This event will bring over 400 physicians from around the world to the United States for a week of athletic competition, medical education, and community outreach. The US Medical Soccer Team is confident this event and the organization's expanding efforts, both on and off the field, will be a source of pride for our nation.

I urge all Americans to recognize the US Medical Soccer Team and wish them luck on the field as they head to Brazil to compete this summer in the Physicians' World Cup and support them off the field in their continued outreach efforts with underserved youth advocating for fitness, nutrition and education. As physically active doctors, they "walk the talk" and encourage other colleagues and their patients to do the same.

IN TRIBUTE TO DEANA MARTIN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to shine a spotlight on an American star for vastly different reasons to which she is accustomed. Deana Martin, an accomplished singer, actor, author and performer in her own right, as well as the daughter of the legendary Dean Martin, will be performing for the people of Enfield at the request of the Lady of Mt. Carmel Society and the local Chief of Police, Mr. Carl Sferazza.

On August 2nd, Ms. Martin, as a special guest of the community, will be visiting seniors at the Enfield Senior Center to talk about her experiences watching and performing with her father. She will also stop by the Felician Sisters, Our Lady of the Angels Convent to bring her performance to those who would not otherwise have the opportunity to see it.

In addition to performing her music, Ms. Martin will also be speaking on her best-selling book, "Memories Are Made Of This" in which she tells her father's story through her own eyes. The book's name is a reference to her father's work that captures the essence of their relationship.

Thanks to Ms. Martin's participation, this annual tradition of a proud Connecticut town will be a unique experience filled with music and storytelling from a legendary American family. I thank Ms. Martin for her wonderful musical work, and her service to this local community.

CELEBRATING JAMES BALDWIN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that today I rise to join all of the people in the village of Harlem and my Congressional District to celebrate the works of Mr. James Baldwin on his 90th birthday this upcoming August 2, 2014. James Baldwin was a legendary writer who broke new literary ground by exploring racial and social issues in his works.

Mr. Baldwin was born to Emma Jones, a single mother, on August 2, 1924 in Harlem, New York. While he never met his biological father, Mr. Baldwin did have a father figure growing up: Baptist Minister David Baldwin. The preacher's religious influence had a lasting impression on James and his writings. He would go on to spend three years as a youth minister. The language of the church shaped the cadences and tones of his work, becoming unmistakable hallmarks of his literary style.

After striking out on his own and moving away from home, Mr. Baldwin published short stories in national periodicals under the tutelage of his mentor, Beauford Delaney, a renowned Harlem Renaissance painter. Growing disillusion with chauvinism against African-Americans and the gay community, Baldwin left our country and settled in France at the age of 24. He found that the distance gave him enough space to reflect on his experience as a black man in white America. Please allow

me to quote Mr. Baldwin's later thoughts on this dramatic change in his life: "Once I found myself on the other side of the ocean, I saw where I came from very clearly . . . I am the grandson of a slave, and I am writer. I must deal with both." Through his writing, Baldwin did deal with this reality.

In 1953, Baldwin published his first novel, a semi-autobiography called *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, which explores the repression, moral hypocrisy, religious inspiration, and community ties that characterize the Black American experience. While he spent much of his life abroad, Baldwin always remained a quintessentially American writer. In the early 1960s, he returned home and became a leading voice and activist in the Civil Rights Movement. The works that Baldwin published during this tumultuous time in American history, explored the deep-rooted racial tension with eloquence and unparalleled honesty. His two collections of essays, *Notes of a Native Son* (1955) and *Nobody Knows My Name* (1961), as well as two novels, *Giovanni's Room* (1956) and *Another Country* (1962), were immediate bestsellers. James Baldwin created beautiful literary works with unprecedented depth and power; his writing will remain an essential part of the American literary canon.

In honor of his birthday, as well as to pay tribute to Mr. Baldwin's tireless effort to addressing our nation's issues with race and spirituality, the New Heritage Theatre Group, Columbia University School of the Arts, National Black Theater, Street Corner Recourse and Harlem Renaissance High School recognize August 2nd as James Baldwin Day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me as we pay tribute to such a legend. I pledge to continue his fight for justice for all and encourage everyone to do the same.

SECURE THE SOUTHWEST BORDER ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in strong opposition to H.R. 5230, a bill to make supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014 to address the humanitarian crisis on our nation's southern border.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, I have visited the border and seen the children that this bill intends to help.

This bill offers too little in funding to address the need that over 50 states are attempting to address by providing shelter and assistance to the tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors who are now living in our country.

Over two-thirds of the language in H.R. 5230 will make significant changes in existing law or creates new law regarding immigration policy without going through the committees of jurisdiction such as the House Committees on Homeland Security, Judiciary, and Foreign Affairs.

H.R. 5230 contains too much language that is legislative such as:

The bill makes significant changes to 2008 Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This change will subject all children to the initial screening process that now applies only to children from Mexico and Canada; erects a new expedited immigration court screening for any children who pass the initial screening; prohibits administrative appeals from children ordered removed through the new expedited process; requires detention of certain children who demonstrate a credible fear of persecution throughout the pendency of their asylum proceedings; establishes new, high burdens of proof; and sets up a principle of "Last In, First Out" in the adjudication process.

The bill prohibits the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture from impeding, denying, or restricting the activities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection on Federal land located within 100 Miles of the U.S./Mexico border—This issue has already been addressed. Both Interior and Agriculture have existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and all these agencies, as well as the GAO, have testified that these agreements are working and that federal land management laws and activities do not impair border security.

The bill provides too few emergency immigration judges—the bill only requires the Department of Justice to designate up to 40 temporary immigration judges within 14 days of enactment of this legislation. Then the bill permits hiring of retired judges or magistrate judges, or the reassignment of current immigration judges, to conduct expedited hearings for unaccompanied alien children to try to meet the new requirement that their cases be heard within 7 days of being screened by DHS officials.

This is a rushed process for an emergency situation involving children. They require our best efforts to ensure their safety and wellbeing not a rushed job.

The bill undermines a long standing policy regarding asylum—H.R. 5230 Prohibits anyone believed to have been convicted outside the U.S. of any drug-related offense punishable by a prison term of more than a year from being granted asylum.

This provision has nothing to do with unaccompanied children entering the United States and clearly is an immigration reform that would impact several committees such as the House Committees on Judiciary and Foreign Affairs.

This provision is problematic because what is considered unlawful in one country is a constitutionally protected right in the United States. Often people are fleeing religious, ethnic or political persecution.

Persecution means that they are experiencing or have experienced actions taken by their countries governments, which often includes imprisonment or torture while in custody.

This one change would hand repressive regimes like North Korea with an easy way to block the United States from helping those seeking to escape that country—charge and convict them of a felon.

A Sudanese woman was sentenced to death for being a Christian—would this Congress bar her entry into the United States?

The bill makes the wrong decision on border security by sending the National Guard support for border operations—H.R. 5230 would deploy National Guard under Title 32 Status.

National Guard troops with this change may be assigned duties as deemed necessary to provide assistance in operations, with priority given to high traffic areas experiencing the highest number of crossing by unaccompanied children.

Sending armed soldiers to greet children escaping violence—Mr. Speaker what is the leadership thinking?

These children need our help not frightening images of more adults with guns.

The bill denies safe shelter to children through its sense of Congress—the states that the Secretary of Defense should not be allowed to shelter unaccompanied children or other migrants unless certain conditions are met.

The military and the administration are well aware of the conditions that are acceptable for children and this Congress should provide what is needed so that their needs can be met.

This bill does too little to actually help the thousands of children who are awaiting immigration hearings. They are victims of human trafficking, sexual violence, and witnesses to murders as well as acts of violence against other children who took that dangerous trek to the United States.

We should be focused on learning what they know and what they experienced to be sure the guilty are found and punished.

I offered, along with several other members of the House amendments in attempts to improve the bill, but all were rejected by the Rules Committee, which chose to place H.R. 5230 before the House in the form of a closed rule.

The Jackson Lee Amendment would have authorized designated federal agencies to reimburse State and local governments and private nonprofit organizations for the costs incurred in providing psychological counseling, housing, education, medicine and medical care, food and water, clothes, personal hygiene and other indispensable consumables, other human services in response to the humanitarian crisis on the Southwest Border.

This Congress has had the Senate's version of a Comprehensive Immigration reform bill for nearly a year, without accomplishing the task of taking up the issue and passing a House version.

Our nation's immigration system is broken and needs reform, but the only attempt at addressing immigration into the United States is this bill that is being presented as an appropriations bill.

H.R. 5230 is not an appropriations bill it is an immigration reform bill, which covers the jurisdictions of the two committees I serve on—the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees. Neither of these committees were given the opportunity to hold hearings or make the needed changes to the bill to make sure it conforms with long standing policies relating to unaccompanied minor or issues related to refugees.

The Jackson Lee amendment would have helped nonprofits, local and state governments in all of the 50 states who are now providing assistance to the tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors within the United States.

The message has gotten to families in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. Parents are no longer sending their children to the United States once they learned of the dangers and the prospects for their children surviving the journey without becoming victims of human trafficking.

These children have found the compassion and love of thousands of Americans found in the states of Texas, Alabama, Alaska, California, Illinois, North Carolina, South Dakota, New York, Utah, Virginia and—yes even the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The nature of America is that of the Good Samaritan.

On July 3, 2014, I went to McAllen, Texas and observed a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facility where unaccompanied children were being processed by the Border Patrol.

As I walked through the facility, I saw frightened and needy children, some as young as five years old.

Madam Speaker, some members of this body who have not taken the time to visit the border or visit the children who are now in their own states will stand before this body and accuse them of being dangerous—but they are not.

They are traumatized and frightened children driven from their homes by violence and inducements of these same gangs to get payments from desperate parents seeking to save the lives of their children to bring them to the United States.

These children had risked their lives to make their way to the U.S. by riding atop freight trains through dangerous territories in Mexico. One can only imagine the desperation and hopelessness that would prompt a parent to send their young child on such a treacherous journey.

It takes courage and desperation to escape senseless violence and I know that is what Cuban Americans faced, and Christians, Jews and all other groups facing violence have endured.

These are refugees and their status requires that the United States act appropriately.

Some may mention that the United States has a quota on refugees that we can take each year and that number has been reached. The program that refer to is for refugees that other nations around the world are providing shelter—but if the refugees are crossing our own border there is not limit.

This international law that the United States has backed for decades and pressured other nations to enforce. If the refugees are Christians escaping ISIS or Boko Haram or they are children escaping violent gangs in Central America they are not and should not be turned back.

Children do not leave their homes and families by the tens of thousands unless fear is driving them from their homes.

Upon my visit to South Texas borders, I witnessed hundreds of children whose young faces were pressed against glass jails with tears running down their faces. We are dealing with helpless children who have traveled a treacherous journey, and it should be within our American values to care for these children who fled their homes to escape violence.

These children are not perpetrators or criminals—they are in many cases victims fleeing deadly violence in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, and are seeking temporary safe haven in the United States, as so many people before them have done for centuries.

The surge of unaccompanied children on our southern border does not pose a threat to our national security. Contrary to the shrill rhetoric used by some commentators, the na-

tion is not being invaded by an army of children dispatched to do us harm.

We are confronted instead with a humanitarian crisis resulting from the alarming scale of violence and economic desperation in three Central American countries that now lead the world in murder rates: El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Politicizing the issue will not solve the problem. Taking actions that address the root causes in the short and long term will. We should be taking up Immigration Reform to deal with the wide range of immigration problems.

The current status on the border is the number of children coming across the border has abated. Those children remaining in detention shelters along the border number only a few hundred.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, these three Central American countries have among the highest per capita homicide rates in the world, with Honduras topping the list and the other two nations in the top five.

To address this issue of the humanitarian crisis, I introduced H.R. 4990, the “Justice for Children Now Act of 2014,” which authorizes the immediate hiring of an additional 70 immigration judges in the Executive Office of Immigration Review.

This bill will help but it is not sufficient to address the backlogs to help advance the flow of the children’s immigration court hearings.

The amount allowed under this bill will leave states and aid agencies footing a significant portion of the cost for assisting these helpless children—when it is the role of the federal government to be present and actively engaged in leading the effort.

I support the President’s request for \$3.7 billion to respond to the humanitarian crisis on the border and urge my colleagues in leadership to reconsider the level of funding for this great need.

Congress should allocate the resources needed to deal with the increase in unaccompanied children seeking refuge in the United States. Some of these persons are attempting to enter the country unlawfully and without justification. Our laws do not permit this and they should not be allowed entry.

The Administration is following immigration law as it relates to these unaccompanied minors.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, signed by President George W. Bush establishes the legal status of the children who have entered the nation unaccompanied.

That law provides persons fleeing lethal violence or escape from human trafficking the opportunity to have their case heard by an immigration judge.

Over the time Congress has delayed acting and an additional 366,000 pending cases were added to the immigration courts that must have hearings before any action can be taken.

Because this situation is untenable for everyone—law enforcement, taxpayers, and individuals petitioning for relief, the first thing that we can and should do to reduce the backlog is provide the funding needed to appoint 70 new immigration judges, as provided under legislation.

Ensuring that there are available sufficient facilities to house detained children in a hu-

mane manner while they await their immigration hearing is another challenge.

I ask that the Rules Committee approve the Jackson Lee Amendment for inclusion in H.R. 5230.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year the Job Corps program celebrates its 50th anniversary. It does much good by helping young people earn a high school diploma, develop a career, and obtain a good job.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the individuals at the Gary Job Corps Center in San Marcos, Texas. Gary Job Corps opened its doors in 1965 and has provided a wide range of career technical training opportunities to students in San Marcos ever since.

Gary Job Corps has a long, distinguished history in our community that began in a deactivated air field. The former Gary Air Field was transformed from an air base to a career technical training facility. Barracks and buildings were converted to dormitories, classrooms, training shops, and offices.

Today, Gary is the largest Job Corps Center in the United States with more than 1,600 students. Gary Job Corps has more than 20 career technical training opportunities that range from health occupations and business technology to computer related professions. Other opportunities include construction, manufacturing, human services, and correctional and security officer training. Additionally, Gary Job Corps offers the largest GED program in the state of Texas. Students can obtain their high school diploma via the Internet and acquire an accredited Texas high school diploma.

There is overwhelming support for the Center among local civic and community groups. Teachers, mentors, friends and advisors selflessly invest themselves on a daily basis in the futures of Gary’s students.

But it is the students themselves who make the greatest investment and they are to be commended for their dedication to success. The tireless efforts of the bright, young men and women of Gary Job Corps have enabled them to enter a competitive marketplace equipped with the skills and education necessary to succeed; and succeed they do.

The motto on the entrance to Gary Job Corps says, “Not your last chance, your best chance.” I commend Gary Job Corps for providing these students an opportunity to discover their learning potential and providing them with the ability to succeed. I also commend these students for recognizing that this “best chance” required hard work and dedication on their part, and for rising to meet this challenge.

Congratulations to Gary Job Corps and the Job Corps Program on 50 years of “best chances.” May you continue to prepare America’s young people with the skills needed to succeed in a career and in life.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR 85 YEARS OF SERVICE BY
THE TUCSON METRO CHAMBER
MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Military Affairs Committee of the Tucson Metro Chamber for 85 years of outstanding service to the communities of Southern Arizona. No other state is as friendly to the military as Arizona and the Tucson Metro Chamber is at the forefront in support of our military installations, service members, military families and veterans.

With the military generating nearly two billion dollars in economic activity in Tucson, the Military Affairs Committee plays a critical role, acting as a conduit for Southern Arizona businesses to access, partner and work with Tucson's strong defense industry. The Committee also engages in a number of community projects, such as Toys for Tots and Operation Zulu, a program that raises funds in the business community to send holiday gifts to local deployed service members.

The Military Affairs Committee has helped advocate for Davis-Monthan since 1929, when it was the nation's first municipal aviation field. Today with the MAC's help, Tucson and its surrounding military installations look to the future, ready to support our men and women in uniform for another 85 years, through to the end of the 21st Century.

I am proud to recognize the Military Affairs Committee on the occasion of its 85th year of community support and all that it has done for the men and women stationed in Southern Arizona, their families, and our city that we know and love.

ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FIRST AMERICAN FINANCIAL CORPORATION

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the First American Financial Corporation, and to use this occasion to honor the pioneering role that First American has played in developing the title insurance industry in the United States.

First American was founded in my home district of Orange County, CA in 1889, not long after the then-rural County was itself founded. First American grew from a small, local company into an international provider of title insurance, settlement services and risk solutions for real estate transactions. The company now provides a job to over 11,000 hardworking Americans.

Though it is a multinational corporation, First American has never lost sight of its roots as a closely held family business. Founder C.E. Parker instilled into the company a spirit of entrepreneurship and a commitment to service—core values that still steer First American today. Mr. Parker's grandson and Chairman Emeritus Don Kennedy joined the family busi-

ness in 1948 after attending law school and serving in the U.S. Navy during the Second World War. Under his leadership, First American expanded into surrounding counties, and acquired a trust company, a home warranty provider, and a real estate tax service firm into its portfolio of services. In 1964 he took the company public. Eighteen years later, First American was serving every region of the country. Don Kennedy's son, Parker Kennedy, like his father and great-grandfather before him, is now the company's Chairman of the Board, and is leading the company as it continues to grow.

The Kennedy family has navigated uncertain times over the past century due to the rise of homeownership, technological developments in the field, and shifting regulation both in the U.S. and abroad. Yet by maintaining their commitment to the founding principles of their family business, the Kennedy family grew their small company in southern California into a multinational Fortune 500 company.

First American revolutionized the way title insurance is used across the globe as it pioneered the industry in a number of countries. First American was the first title insurance provider in Mexico, Korea, and Hong Kong, and it has the leading market share in Australia, Canada, and England. The company innovated the world's first international title insurance policy, and has worked with government officials in developing nations to create legislation that protects landowner rights and secures a stronger local economy.

Title insurance is a foundational component of the real estate industry, and by making sure a homebuyer gets what he bargained for, the First American Financial Corporation paved the way for homeowners across this nation to live out the American Dream. It is a company that all Americans—indeed, all people—can choose to be their financial partner.

I congratulate First American Financial Corporation on 125 years of service, and for supporting the homeowners and business communities in the U.S. and abroad.

BORDER SECURITY AND
IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Resolution to the Rule.

Yesterday's decision to pull the border bill was an embarrassment for Republican leadership and they are now trying to save face by circumventing democracy. The use of 'martial law' authority was designed to stifle debate and rush legislation to keep the American people out of the loop.

Had we passed bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform, we would not be in this situation today. Thousands of children would not be in limbo. Instead many of these children would be legally reunited with their families—without—the need to take the dangerous journey to get to the U.S.

My Republican colleagues like to blame the President for the number of children making the perilous journey. They need to look at their own inaction from the past year. Instead of

passing comprehensive immigration reform which would greatly benefit our country, they continue to hold our country hostage through obstruction. Shame on them for sitting on their hands, then blaming others for a crisis they helped create.

H.J. RES. 76

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 76, legislation that would make supplemental appropriations to provide continued support to the Iron Dome system currently in operation in Israel.

As my colleagues know, the Iron Dome system, built jointly with the U.S. and Israel, has been used multiple times over the last several years, and many times in recent weeks alone, to defeat rocket attacks staged by Hamas out of Gaza. As those attacks represent the most imminent danger to Israeli population centers, our continued support for that system is extremely important.

SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.J. RES.
76—NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I voted for the supplemental appropriations bill to provide additional funding for the Iron Dome for Israel.

Hamas should not have been shooting rockets into Israel, and Israel certainly has a right to defend itself.

However, it is heartbreaking to me to read and hear about all the little children in Gaza who have been killed or injured. And it is very sad to see pictures and news reports of frightened little children laying in the hospital with serious injuries.

As I did on the floor a few days ago, I once again plead with officials in Israel, Gaza, the U.N. and the U.S. to work together to get small children away from the bombs and out of harm's way.

Even if the fighting for some unfortunate reason has to continue, I hope we can at least save some of the little children.

IN SUPPORT OF SENATE
AMENDMENT TO H.J. RES. 76

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, because I stand with Israel I rise in strong support of this bill to provide \$225 million to the State of Israel to support the Iron Dome system. These funds are in addition to what the

House has already approved in the FY 2015 Defense Appropriations Bill.

For the past four weeks, Israel and the Israeli people have been subjected to a relentless attack by the terrorist organization Hamas.

Hamas has fired thousands of rockets from Gaza into Israel, deliberately attempting to kill as many Israelis and damage as much Israeli property as it possibly can.

These indiscriminate attacks would likely have killed large numbers of Israelis and destroyed untold amounts of property except for one thing—the Iron Dome.

The Iron Dome has proven to be a remarkably effective defensive weapon, destroying rockets headed for targets in populated areas, saving lives and protecting property from Hamas's terror from the skies.

It is crucial that the Israelis continue to be able to employ and improve the Iron Dome to repel these terrorist rocket attacks.

The funds we approve today will enable Israel to continue to defend itself and its people from these wanton terrorist attacks.

The clearest way this House can demonstrate that it stands with Israel is by overwhelmingly approving this bill.

Let's show the people of Israel that we stand with them and let's show Hamas, and anyone else who would threaten Israel's right to exist, that we will not stand by and give their ruthless mission even the slightest possibility of success.

FY15 IRON DOME SUPPLEMENTAL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this emergency supplemental furthering our commitment and support to our steadfast ally through critically-needed funding for the Iron Dome missile defense system.

Israel is currently embroiled in a devastating war on terrorism. For weeks, Hamas, an internationally-recognized terrorist organization, has indiscriminately fired thousands of rockets into Israel and has built miles of tunnels to launch vicious land attacks.

Just yesterday, in a dastardly breach of the humanitarian ceasefire, Hamas operatives reportedly surfaced from a tunnel, killed two Israeli soldiers, and abducted a third, Hadar Goldin. I join the Administration in demanding his immediate and unconditional release.

We are all heartbroken by the devastating loss of human life on both sides. But the fact remains, Hamas is responsible for this war, cowardly booby-traps in UN-health clinics, hiding rockets in UN-run schools, instructing Gazans to ignore Israeli warnings to relocate to protect its weapons instead, and repeatedly violating internationally-backed ceasefires.

Innocent Israelis and Palestinians have already suffered an enormous toll. Yet Hamas remains committed to wreaking fear and havoc on as many civilians as possible.

That is why this measure is vital. Iron Dome has already protected millions of Israelis who must have our full backing.

The additional \$225 million will accelerate production of Iron Dome to counter short-range rockets.

I urge immediate passage.

THEN THEY CAME FOR ME

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, this is just my first term, but during my time here I have seen some truly low moments.

But this is the saddest day so far.

We just voted to send children back to unspeakable violence, and now we are considering deporting young people brought to this country through no fault of their own.

It reminded me of the words of Pastor Martin Niemöller. Words that I have hanging in my office:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

I ask you Mr. Speaker—who will speak for the unaccompanied children, for the Dreamers, if not us?

H.R. 5230 AND H.R. 5272

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, I voted in favor of H.R. 5230 because it strengthens our security on the southern border and relieves this humanitarian crisis. This legislation fixes the 2008 law to ensure that a speedy process returns these children safely and swiftly to their homes. It also provides the resources necessary for states and the National Guard to end the immediate problems on the border.

Additionally, I voted in favor of H.R. 5272 because the Constitution demanded it. This administration cannot simply pick and choose

which laws they would like to enforce and which they would like to ignore. My position is clear that I believe we have a broken immigration system and I support reforms that secure our borders, fix our legal immigration system, and address those here unlawfully. However, these reforms should be done through Congress, not executive orders that stretch the authority granted by the Constitution. Additionally, the President's Executive Order attempts to treat a symptom, but not the root of the problem, and it has undoubtedly contributed to the current humanitarian crisis along our southern border. We need to pass laws to fix our immigration system if we want to solve this problem once and for all.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 5230 AND H.R. 5272

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 5230 and H.R. 5272, sham legislation that fails to address the humanitarian crisis on our country's southern border.

I strongly object to the language contained in H.R. 5230 that would amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization Act of 2008 (TVPPRA). When Congress unanimously passed and President Bush signed the TVPPRA, the purpose was to address the flow of child trafficking out of Central America, a process which requires a more extensive review and care for these children. I believe that changes to this law, especially those adopted in haste, would not be in the best interests of our nation or the children who suffer from trafficking. The commercial exploitation of children, especially sexual abuse, is among the most heinous crimes known to humanity and we should not engage in changing policy hastily or without a great deal of deliberation.

I also object to H.R. 5272 which would prohibit the expansion of the President's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and prevent those that otherwise would be eligible for deferred action. This program was designed to protect children who came to this country as minors through no choice of their own. DACA does not confer lawful immigration status, does not alter an individual's existing immigration status, and does not provide a path to citizenship. This legislation is unrelated to the current crisis, and is nothing more than a handout to radical Republicans who have no compassion.

We do this country a disservice with both H.R. 5230 and H.R. 5272. The time has come to pass comprehensive immigration reform now.